水域
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漆原友紀
水域
下
漆原友紀

水色

すいいき

漆原友紀

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水色
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Hox, Illuminati-Manga & Scantily-Clad Present

Waters 水域

Volume 2

Urushibara Yuki 漆原友紀

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CHINAMI.
IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER HOT DAY TODAY.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST STOP GOING TO YOUR SWIMMING CLUB PRACTICE?
WHAAAT.

BUT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN FEELING SO ENERGETIC EVER SINCE YOU FAINTED.
YEAH, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY IT'LL BE WORSE IF I JUST SIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING.

BUT I ALREADY FEEL SO LAZY FROM NOT DOING ANYTHING FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS.

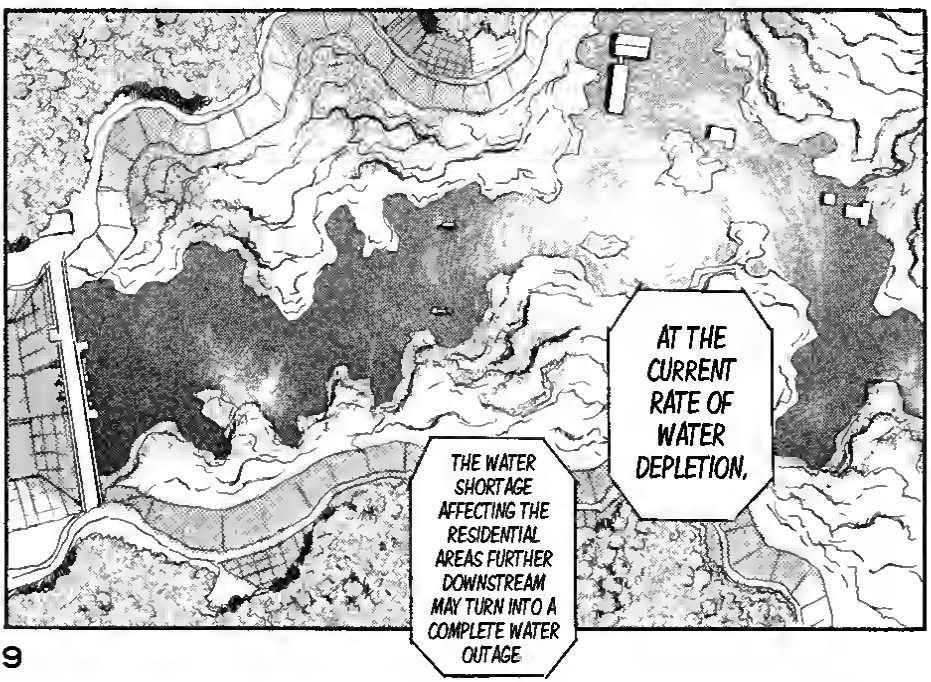
Chapter 07
Congregation
……
FINE, BUT PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
IF YOU DON'T FEEL TOO WELL, TAKE A BREAK.
YEAH, OKAY!
I'M OFF THEN!
BYE.
カチャ
ジィィィィ

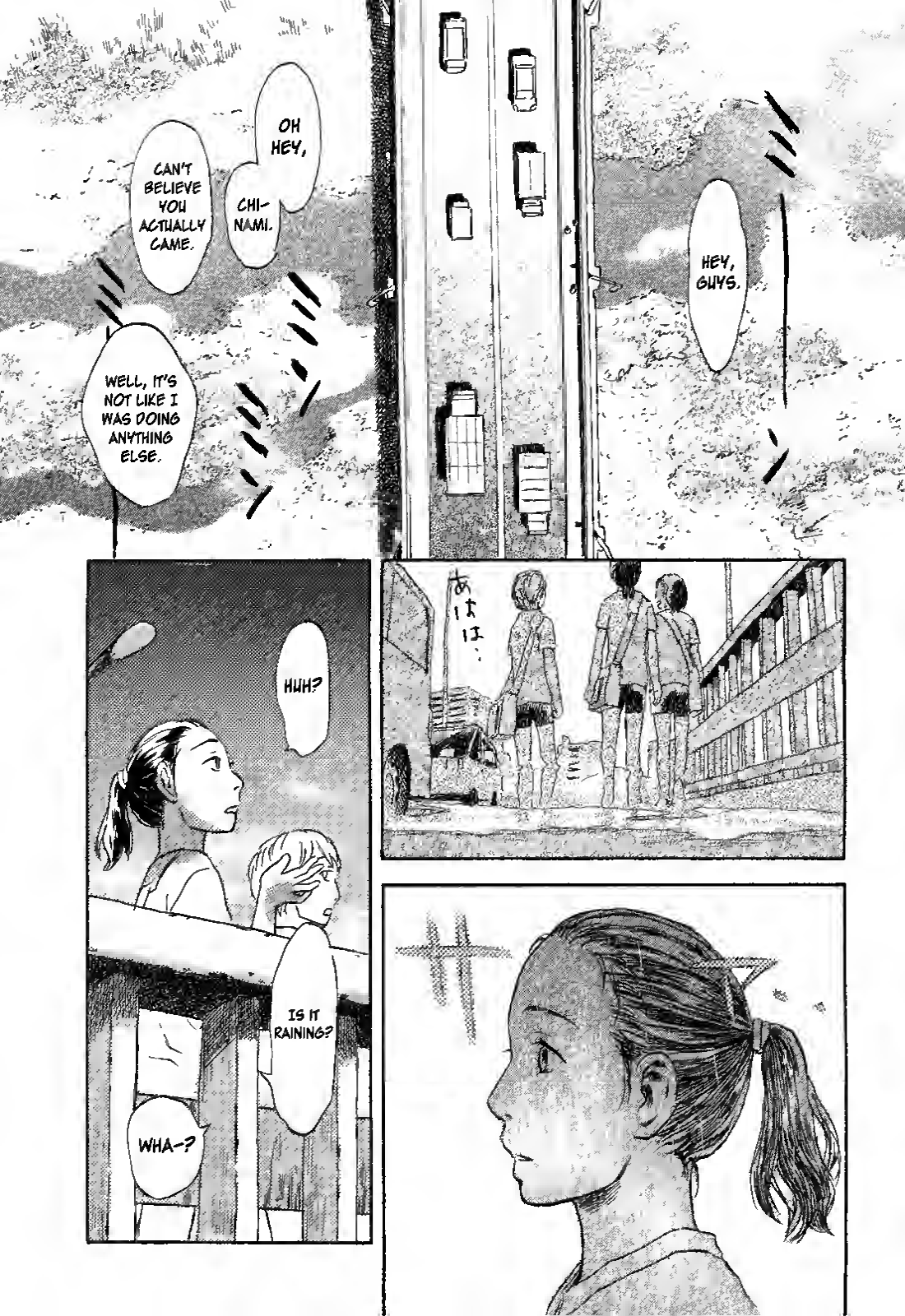
バラバラバラ
AH,
A HELI-COPTER.
バラバラバラ
HOT...
バラバラバラ
YESTERDAY WAS THE HOTTEST DAY OF THIS YEAR SO FAR, REACHING A TEMPERATURE OF 39.5 DEGREES.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN MORE THAN 40 CONTINUOUS DAYS OF TEM-PERATURES HIGHER THAN 30 DEGREES

WHAT WE'RE SHOWING NOW
IS AN AERIAL SHOT OF THE MIYAMA DAM.
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE FOLLOWING IMAGE.
THE BIGGEST CONCERN AS OF NOW IS THE WATER SHORTAGE.
IT'S BEEN MANY DAYS SINCE THE DAM HAS LAST SEEN RAIN.
AND AS VIEWERS CAN SEE ON THE SCREEN,
THE BOTTOM OF THE DAMMED RESERVOIR IS BEGINNING TO SHOW.

YOU CAN SEE AN OLD BRIDGE PIER,
AND TRACES OF WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE ONCE BEEN A SCHOOL.

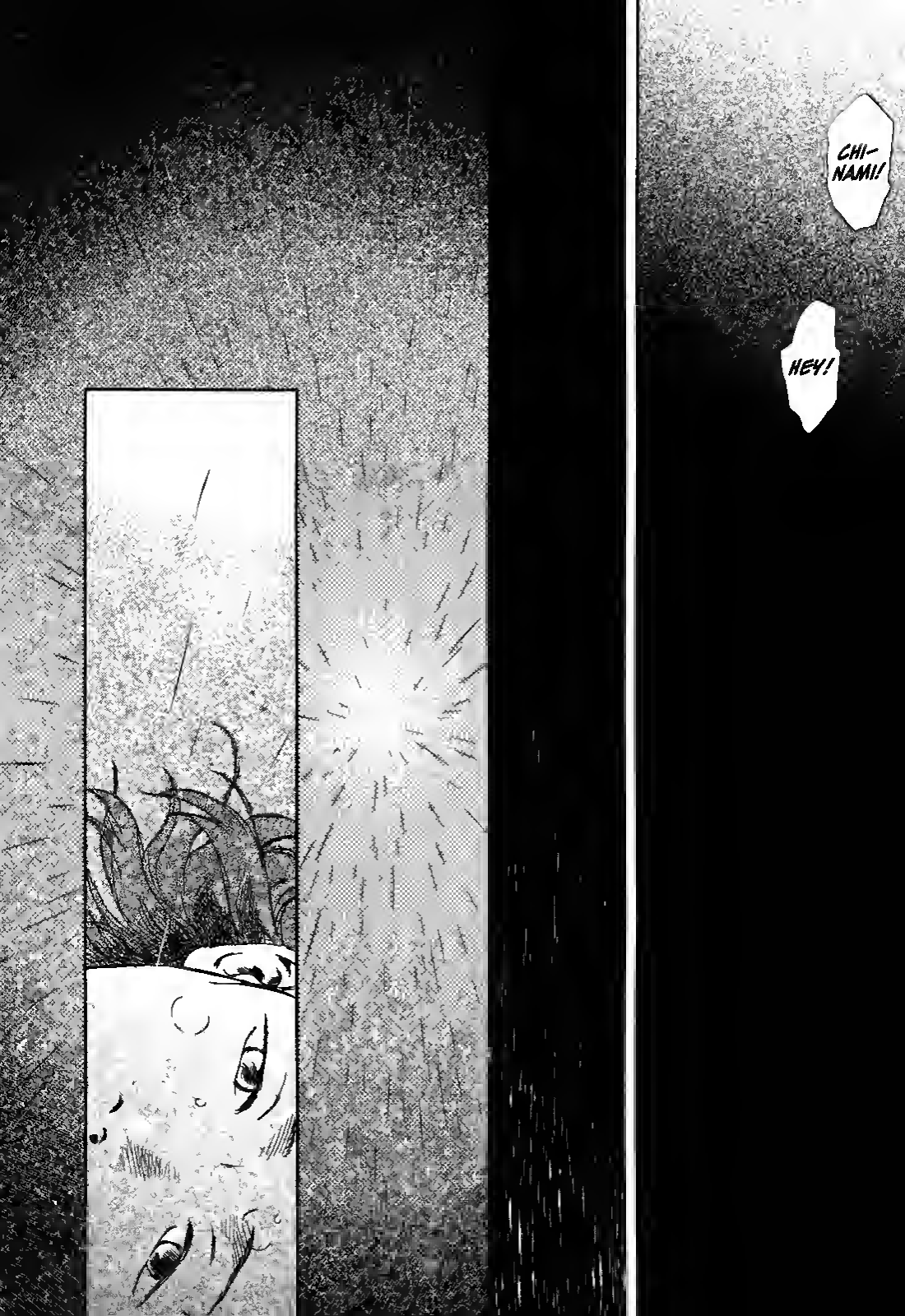
THESE ARE THE REMNANTS OF THE MIYAMA VILLAGE THAT ONCE EXISTED HERE.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANYBODY HAS EVER SEEN THE VILLAGE AGAIN
SINCE IT WAS SUNK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE RESERVOIR DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MIYAMA DAM.


AT THE CURRENT RATE OF WATER DEPLETION,
THE WATER SHORTAGE AFFECTING THE RESIDENTIAL AREAS FURTHER DOWNSTREAM MAY TURN INTO A COMPLETE WATER OUTAGE

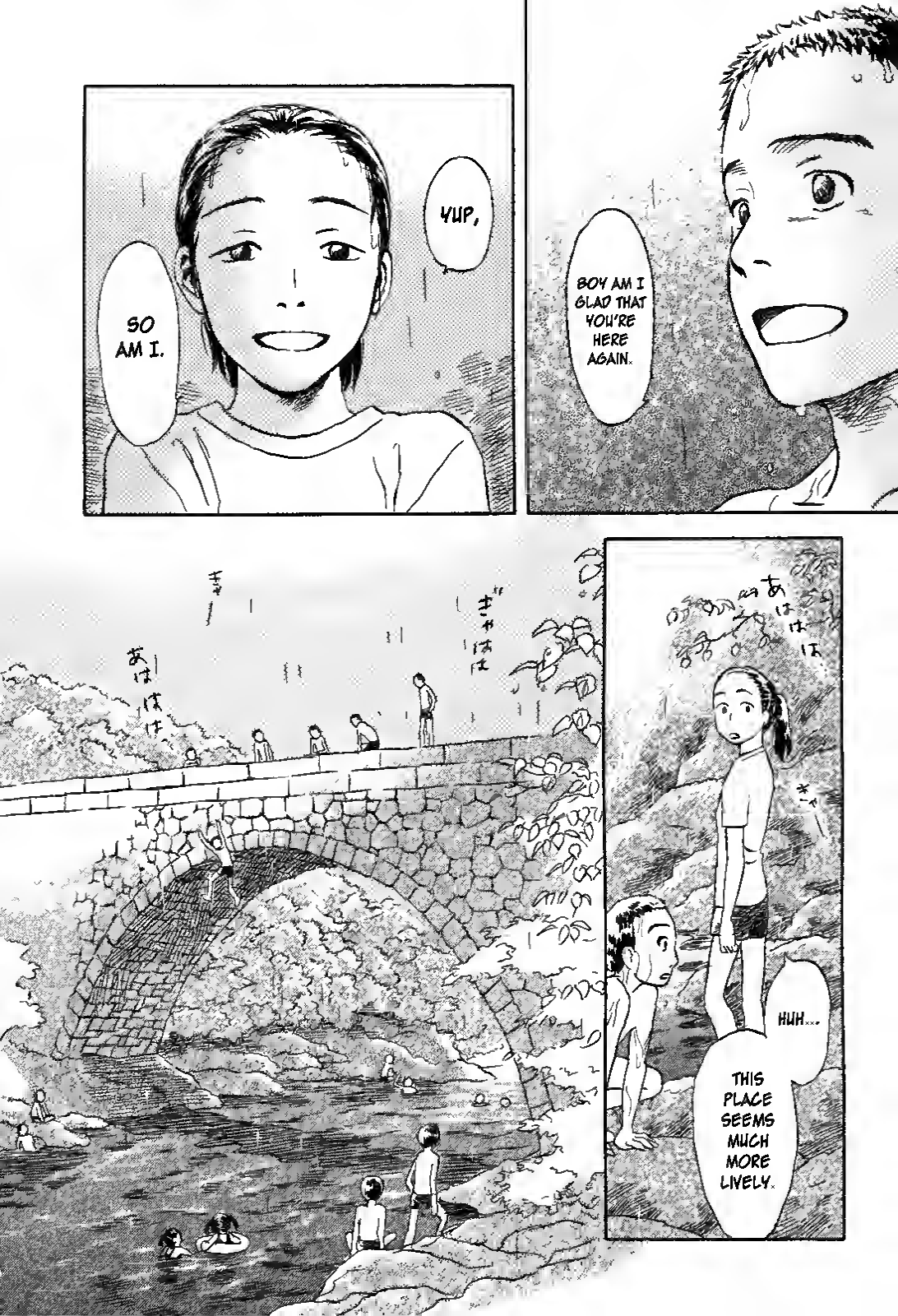

HEY, GUYS.
OH HEY, CHI-NAMI.
CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY CAME.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS DOING ANYTHING ELSE.
あはは…
HUH?
IS IT RAINING?
WHA-?

HUH?
BUT...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THERE'S NO WAY IT'D BE RAINING.

AH—
OH NO,
NOT AGAIN.

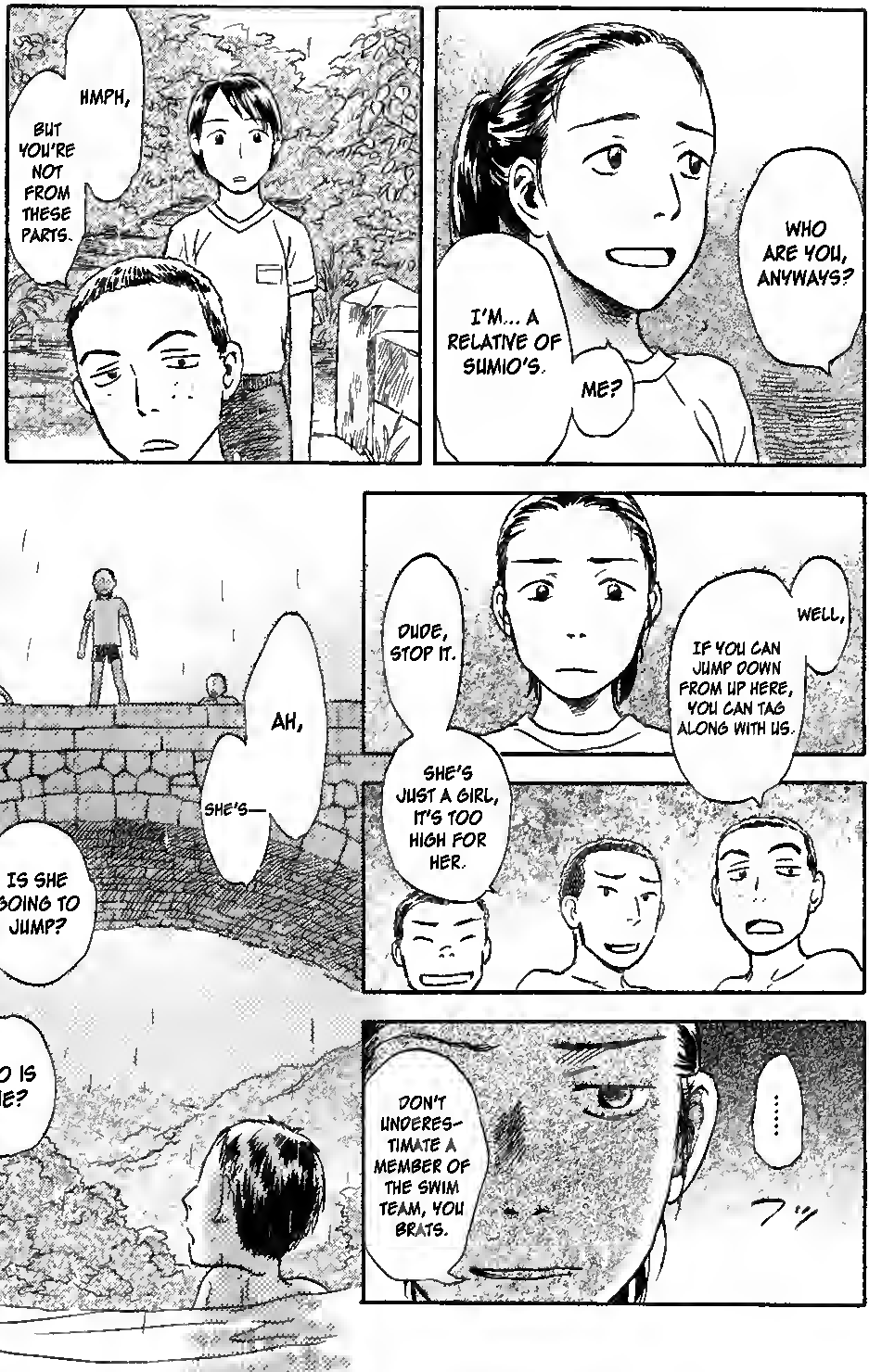

CHI-
NAMI!
HEY!

OH...
SO THE RAIN I FELT JUST NOW...
WAS FROM THIS PLACE...
SUMIO!
!
CHINAMI!!
YOU'RE BACK!

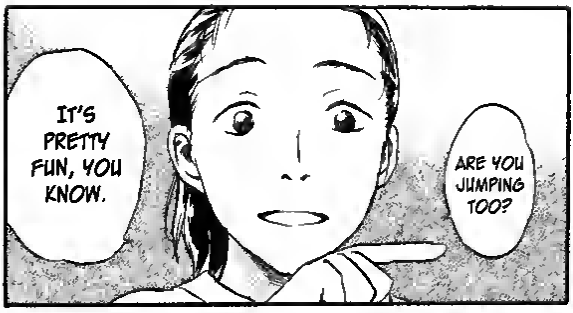

BOY AM I GLAD THAT YOU'RE HERE AGAIN.
YUP,
SO AM I.
あはは
キャー
HUH...
THIS PLACE SEEMS MUCH MORE LIVELY.
あはは
ギャハハ
ギャ

RYOU! SHIGE!
MASARU!
WHOA.
WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE?
WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
CHINAMI!
WATCH ME!
SUMIO!
WHERE'VE YOU GUYS BEEN!?
SORRY, SORRY.
HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

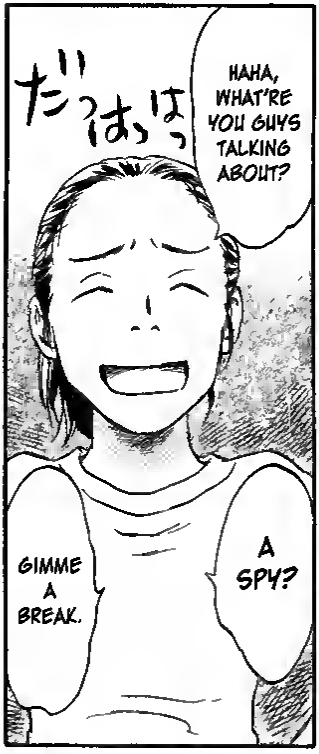
WHOA,
YOU SURE YOU CAN JUMP FROM THIS HIGH?
JUST WATCH ME!
HEY,
LET'S GO OVER THERE.
SUMIO,
WE'RE GONNA GO OVER THERE.
YEAH.
YOU DID IT.
COOL!
UM...
WHY'RE YOU FOLLOWING US?
HUH?
WELL, SUMIO'S GOING WITH YOU GUYS SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL TAG ALONG...


HMPH,
BUT YOU'RE NOT FROM THESE PARTS.
WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAYS?
I'M... A RELATIVE OF SUMIO'S.
ME?
DUDE, STOP IT.
WELL,
IF YOU CAN JUMP DOWN FROM UP HERE, YOU CAN TAG ALONG WITH US.
SHE'S JUST A GIRL, IT'S TOO HIGH FOR HER.
AH,
SHE'S—
IS SHE GOING TO JUMP?
WHO IS SHE?
DON'T UNDERES-TIMATE A MEMBER OF THE SWIM TEAM, YOU BRATS.
……
フッ

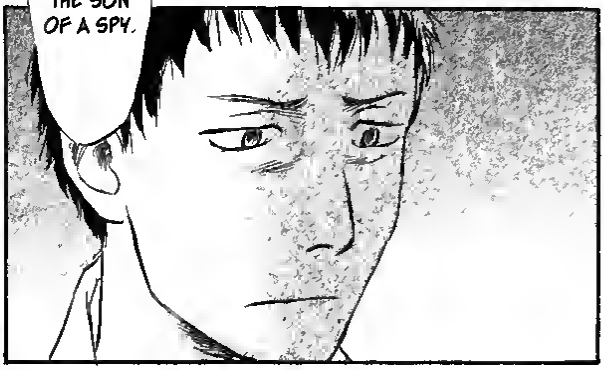
CHI-
NAMI,
YOU DON'T NEED TO FORCE YOURSE—
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.
THIS IS ONLY A DREAM, THIS IS ONLY A DREAM...
WHOAA!
THAT WAS AMAZING!
SHE DOVE IN HEAD FIRST!
AHHH!
THAT FELT SO NICE!
I'M GONNA GO DO IT AGAIN.


IT'S PRETTY FUN, YOU KNOW.
ARE YOU JUMPING TOO?

AH...
UMM...


だっはっは
HAHA, WHAT'RE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
A SPY?
GIMME A BREAK.

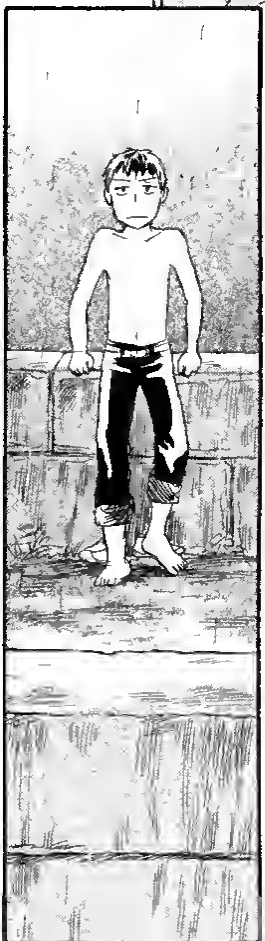
HE'S JUST AN OUTSIDER.
NAH, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM.

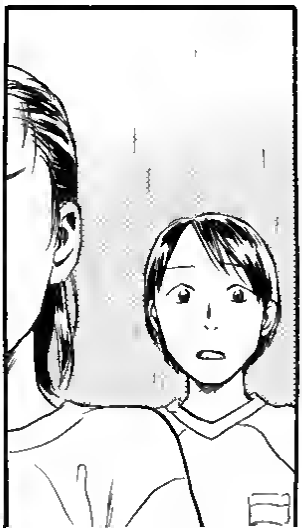

NOT TO MENTION THE SON OF A SPY.

……

どんっ
AH.
C'MON.
YOU GONNA JUST STAND THERE AND LET THESE COUNTRYBOYS TRASH-TALK YOU?
STOP WORRYING. JUST CLEAR YOUR HEAD AND JUMP RIGHT IN.

だっ





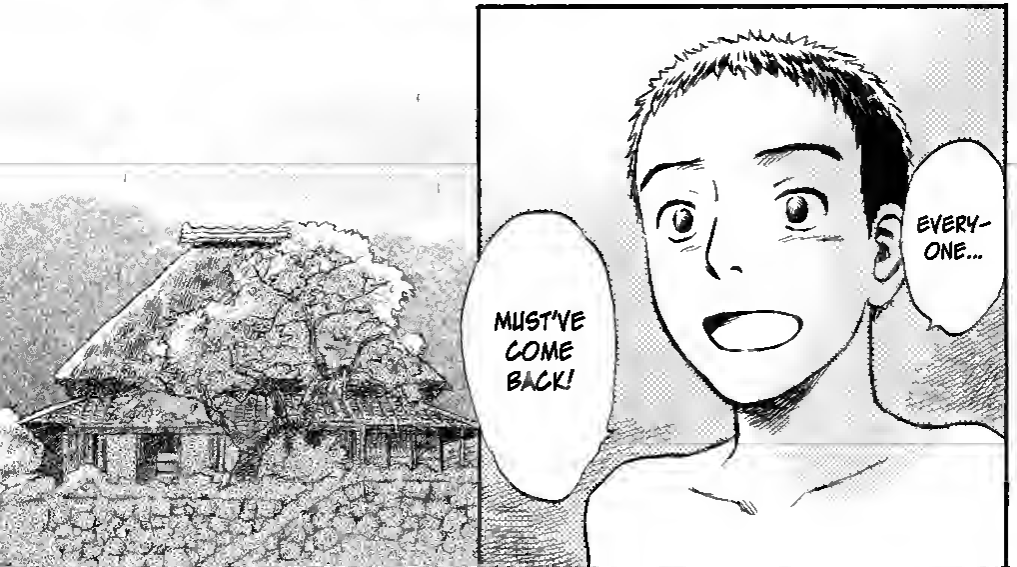
NICE ONE!
DID YOU SEE HOW FAR HE JUMPED?
NO, HE DOESN'T.
LOOKS HE HAS YOU GUYS BEAT.
HEY, KOBAYASHI.
I'LL BEAT YOUR JUMPING DISTANCE, SO JUST YOU WATCH.
HERE I COMEEEE!

CHINAMI.
わはは
THIS PLACE...
IS A PLACE THAT DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE...
M-MOM!?
.....
WHA-!?
HOW?
A-AND YOU'RE SO YOUNG!
WELL, OF COURSE.

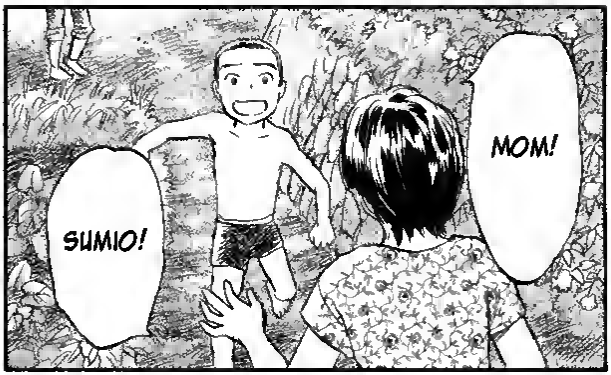
...KAZUMI!
CHINAMI!
EVERYONE'S GOING OV—
.....
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
KAZUMI,
I'M REAL SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME...
I KNOW HOW DANGEROUS IT WAS TO PULL YOU IN...
I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU FOR THE LONGEST TIME.
DON'T WORRY, IT'S FINE...
SUMIO...

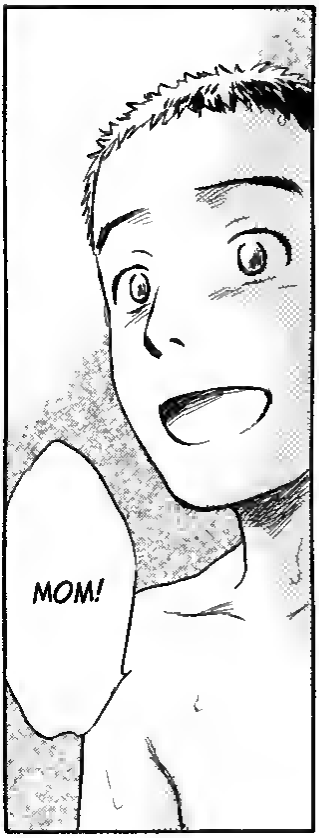
SUMIO IS... MY OLDER BROTHER.
OH?
YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
WHAAAAAAA!
WELL, IT'S TRUE.
NO, IT ISN'T!
YOU SAYING THAT WEIRD STUFF AGAIN?
I'M SURE
OUR MOM AND DAD
ALL WANT TO SEE YOU.
SUMIO,
CHINAMI.
LET'S GO BACK HOME TOGETHER.

SO MANY PEOPLE...


EVERY-ONE...
MUST'VE COME BACK!

SUMIO...!
SUMIO, WAIT UP!


SUMIO!
MOM!


MOM!

WHERE WERE YOU ALL THIS TIME!?

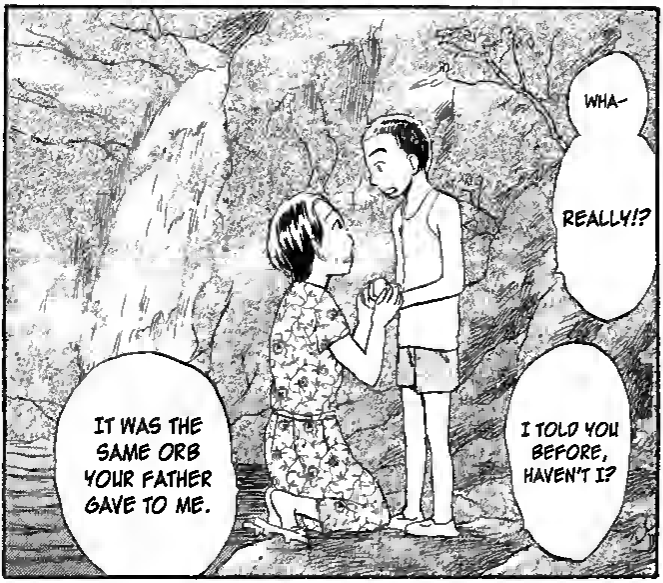
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO COME HOME FOR SO LONG.
IS THAT SO? I'M SO SORRY...
JUST DON'T GO OFF ANYWHERE ANYMORE.
YES, AL-RIGHT...
DAD!
EVERY-ONE CAME BACK!
TATSU-MI...
DAD...
.....
SO YOU'VE COME BACK...

SUMIO,
GO HEAT UP THE BATH.
OKAY!
TODAY'LL BE A BUSY DAY.
AH,
IT STOPPED RAINING...
KIYO...
SO THIS REALLY WAS YOUR HOME.
COME INSIDE, DEAR.
GRANDMA,
YOU'RE HERE TOO, CHINAMI.
I...
I HAVE... SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU...
HARU!

I'M JUST SO GLAD TO BE BACK...
THE TRUTH IS,
I STAYED HERE SO I COULD PAY BACK MY USBAND'S D—
IT'S FINE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
I KNOW IT MUST'VE BEEN SO HARD FOR YOU...
WE ALL FEEL THE SAME WAY...
IS TOORU BACK TOO?
YES...
THEN LET'S ALL EAT TOGETHER.
AL- RIGHT.
WHOA, THIS LOOKS AMAZING.
IS ALL THIS TO CELEBRATE EVERYONE COMING BACK?
THAT'S RIGHT.

TODAY WAS REALLY QUITE SOMETHING, RIGHT TOORU?
HERE, HAVE SOME OF THIS TOO, SUMIO.
OKAY.
IT WAS REALLY FUN.
YEAH...
YOU WERE AMAZING TODAY, CHINAMI.
HAHA, I GUESS...
MOM...

WHAT IS IT?
LET'S GO TO THE WATERFALL.
I FOUND SOMETHING COOL.
LOOK.
THIS WAS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WATERFALL.
IT'S REAL PRETTY, RIGHT?
I PRAYED TO THIS ORB FOR EVERYONE TO COME BACK.
MAYBE IT REALLY WORKED.


WHA-
REALLY!?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, HAVEN'T I?
IT WAS THE SAME ORB YOUR FATHER GAVE TO ME.

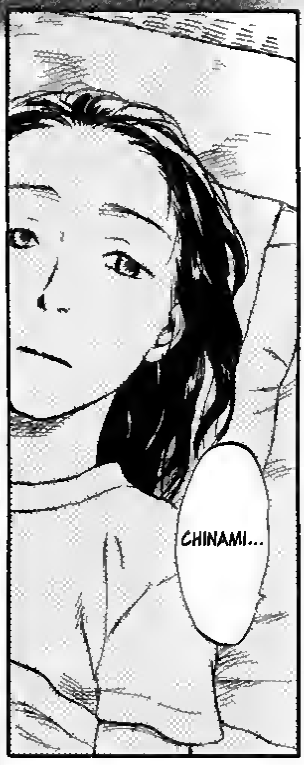
THIS IS...
THE DRAGON GOD'S ORB...

AH, I CAN HAVE IT?
YES.

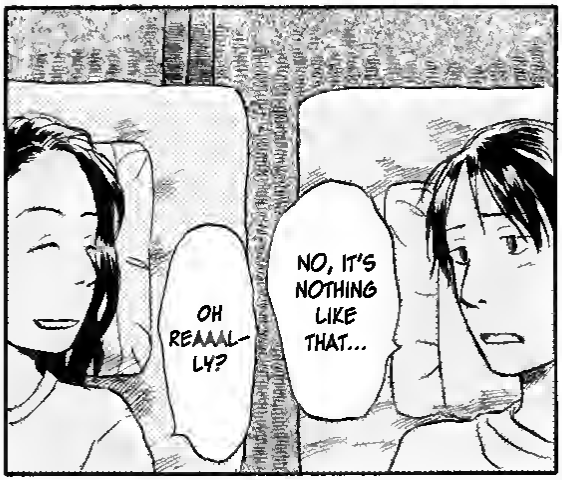
IT'S THE SAME ORB THAT PROTECTED THIS VILLAGE FROM FLOODS TIME AND TIME AGAIN.
BUT NOW IT'S YOURS, SO TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT.

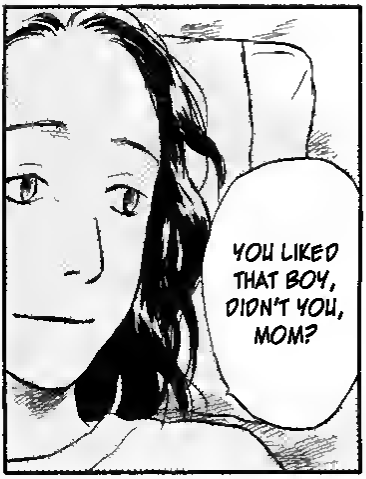
I'VE WANTED...
TO GIVE THIS ORB TO YOU
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, SUMIO...

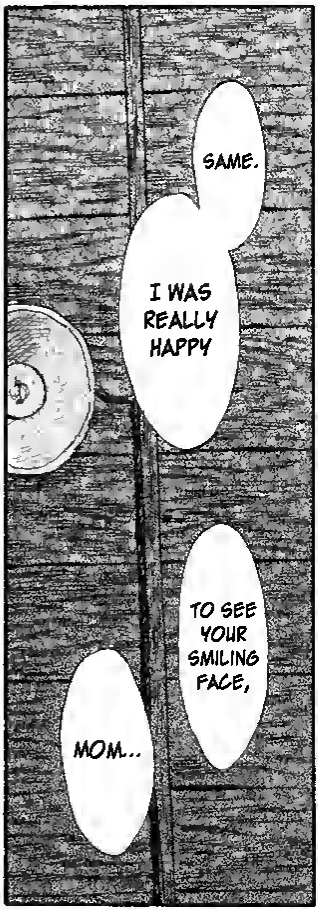
YUP.
YOU AWAKE?


CHINAMI...

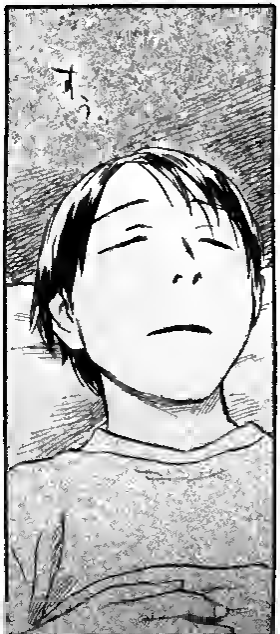
BACK DURING THE DAY...
THANKS FOR INVITING TOORU TO PLAY WITH YOU AND THE OTHERS.


OH REAAAL-LY?
NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT...


YOU LIKED THAT BOY, DIDN'T YOU, MOM?


SAME.
I WAS REALLY HAPPY
TO SEE YOUR SMILING FACE,
MOM...

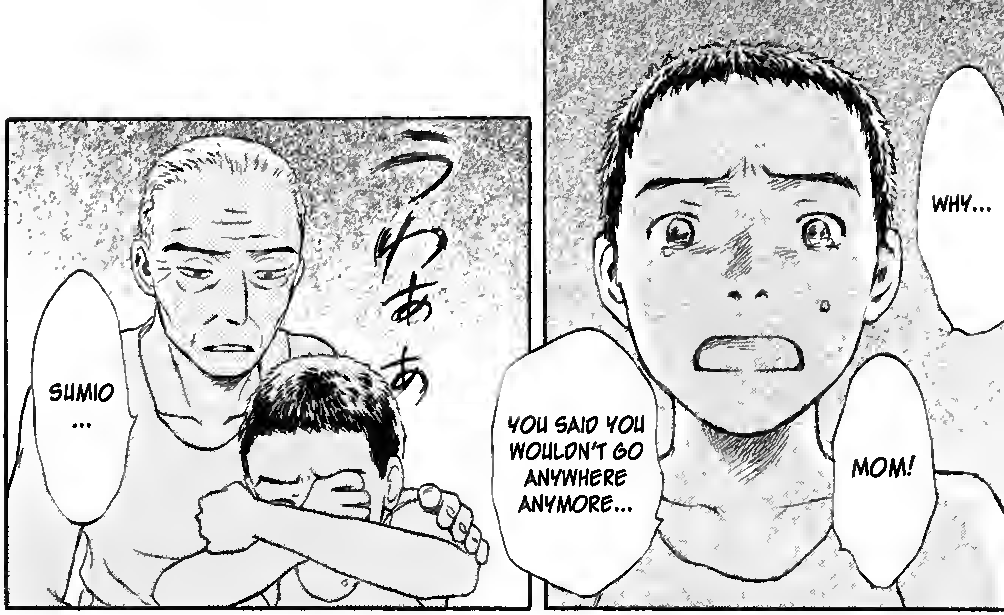
MADE ME HAPPY...
IT'S JUST... SEEING HIM SMILE

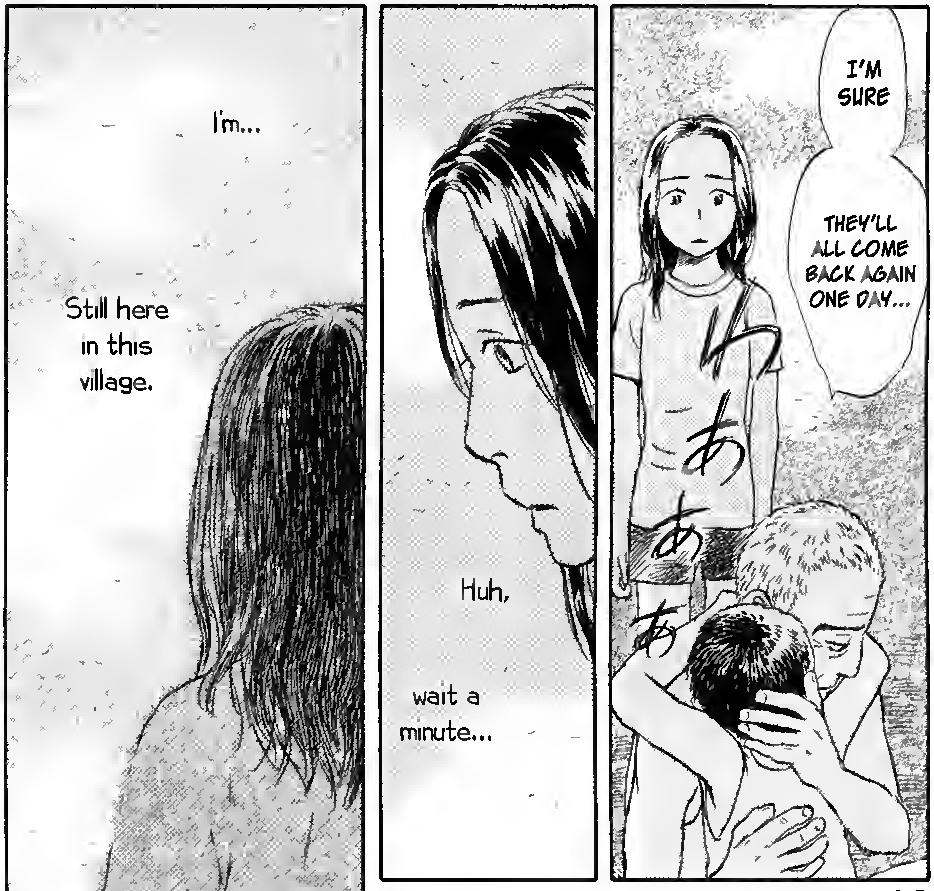


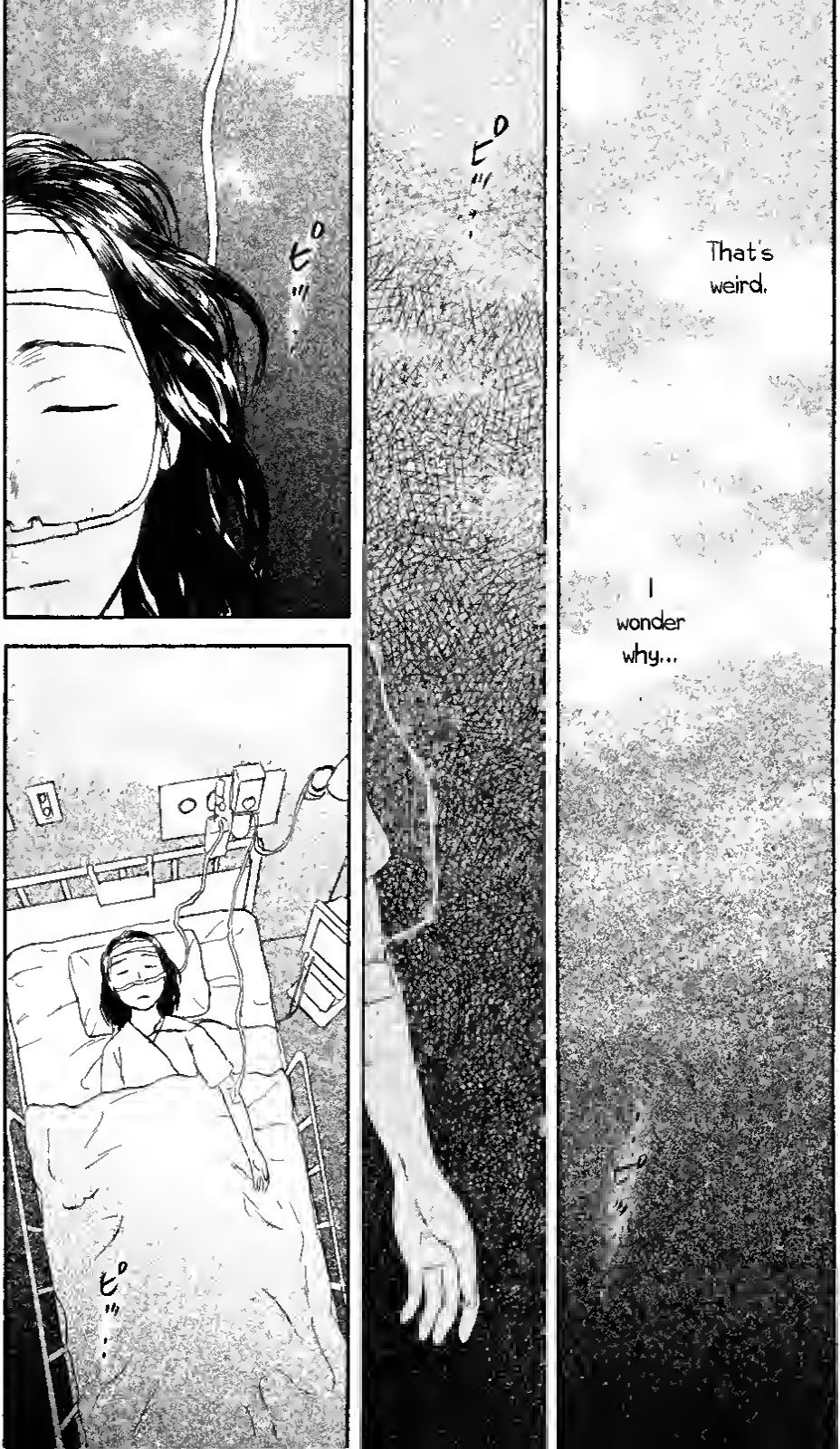
I guess it'll be goodbye...
Once I fall asleep...
I wonder if I'll be able to come here again...
ISN'T THIS GREAT,
SUMIO...
Today was really fun.

MOM!
KAZUMI!
...M.
Back to this village...
SUMIO...

KAZUMI!
MOM!
CHINAMI!
MOM AND KAZUMI AREN'T HERE.
THEY...
ALL DISAPPEARED AGAIN...
SHIGE!
RYOU!
MASARU!

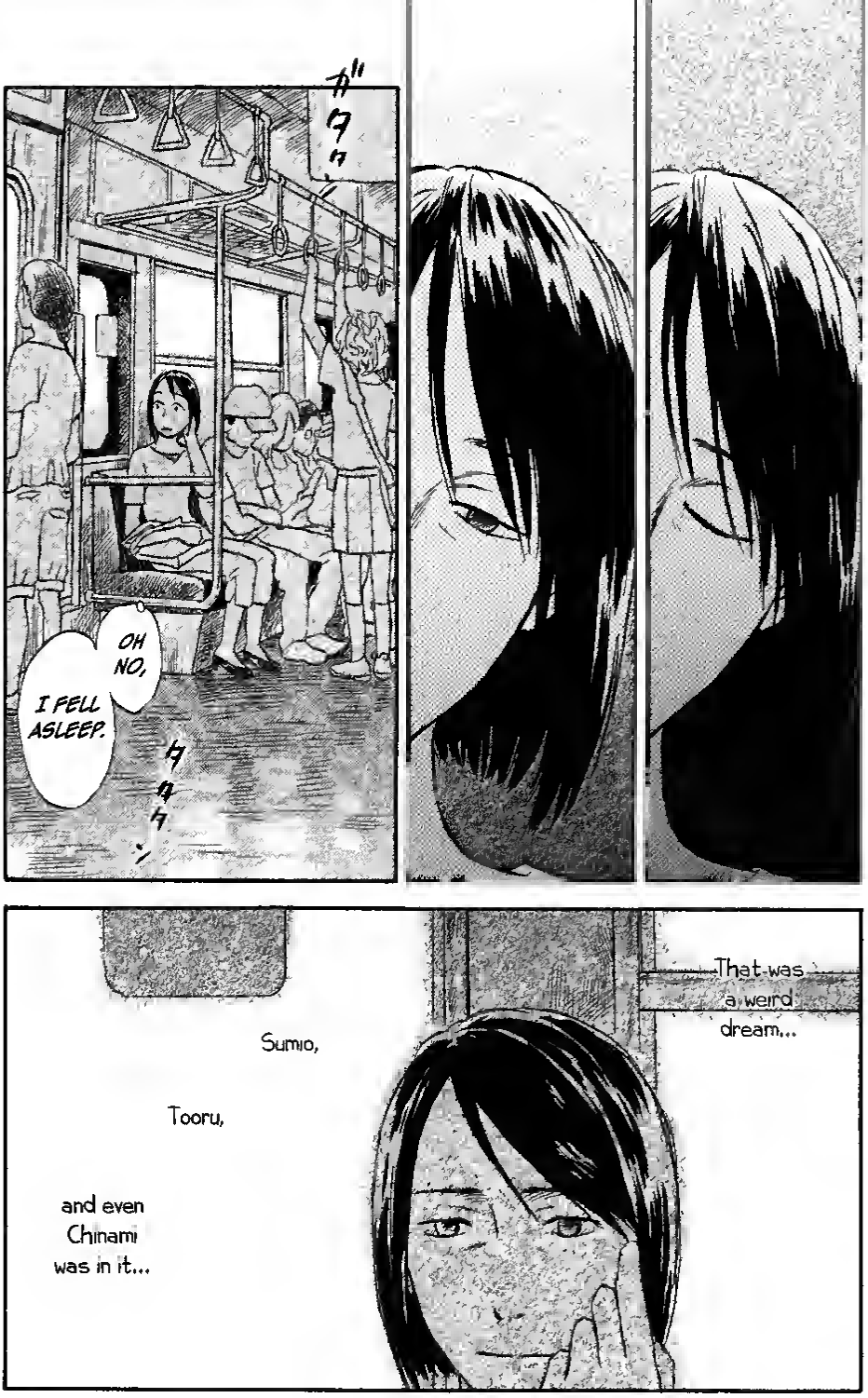

うわあああ
SUMIO ...
WHY...
YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T GO ANYWHERE ANYMORE...
MOM!


I'M SURE
THEY'LL ALL COME BACK AGAIN ONE DAY...
うわあああ
Huh,
wait a minute...
I'm...
Still here in this village.


That's weird.
I wonder why...

This place is...
A place...
That doesn't exist anymore...

Chapter 07
End

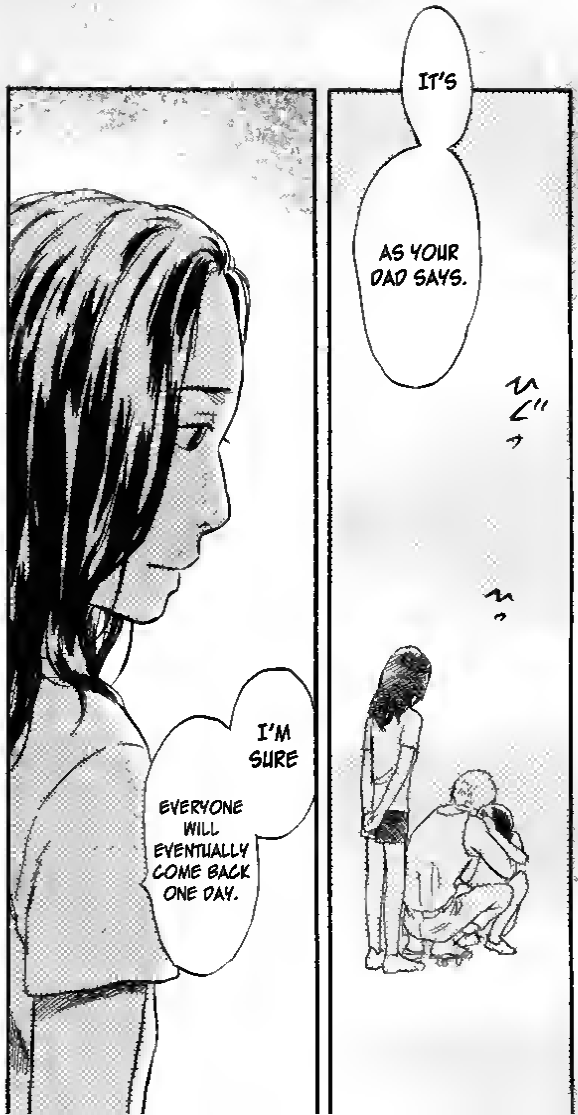

OH NO,
I FELL ASLEEP.
That was a weird dream...
Sumio,
Tooru,
and even Chinami was in it...

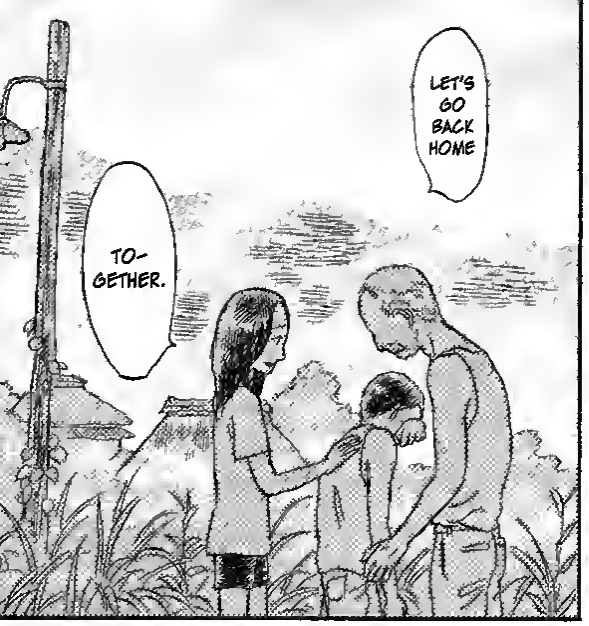
Must've been because of that news report I saw earlier...
HM,
HELLO?
AHH!
THANK GOD YOU FINALLY PICKED UP.
SORRY, I ACCIDENTALLY FELL ASLEEP.
SO WHAT'S THE M—
CHINAMI FAINTED AGAIN.
SHE LOST CONSCIOUS-NESS ON HER WAY TO SCHOOL
AND WAS CARRIED TO THE HOSPITAL.
I'M HEADING OVER TO THE HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW, SO—

Chapter 08
Abyss

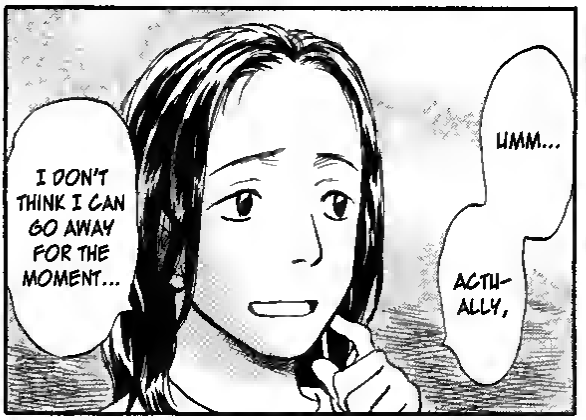
MOTHER.
KAZUMI ...!
HOW IS SHE?
THE DOCTORS HAVE RUN A LOT OF TESTS,
BUT THEY STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THE EXACT REASON IS...
SHE...
STILL HASN'T REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.

PLEASE WAKE UP!
CHINAMI!
CHINAMI!
PLEASE ...
DON'T CRY...
.....
SUMIO ...

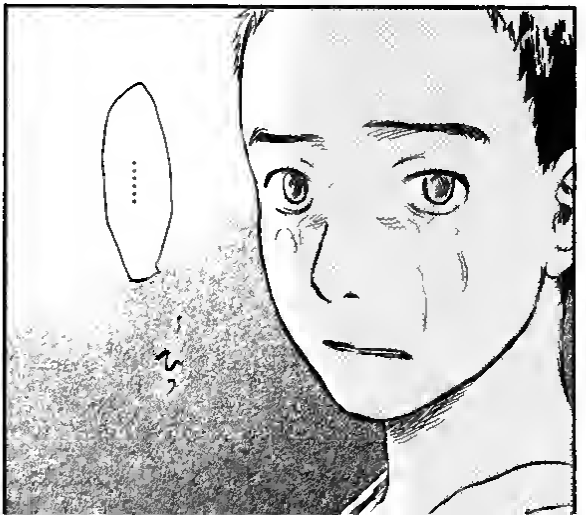

IT'S
AS YOUR DAD SAYS.
I'M SURE
EVERYONE WILL EVENTUALLY COME BACK ONE DAY.


LET'S GO BACK HOME
TO-GETHER.

IN THE MEANTIME, YOU STILL HAVE ME AND YOUR DAD, SO CHEER UP!

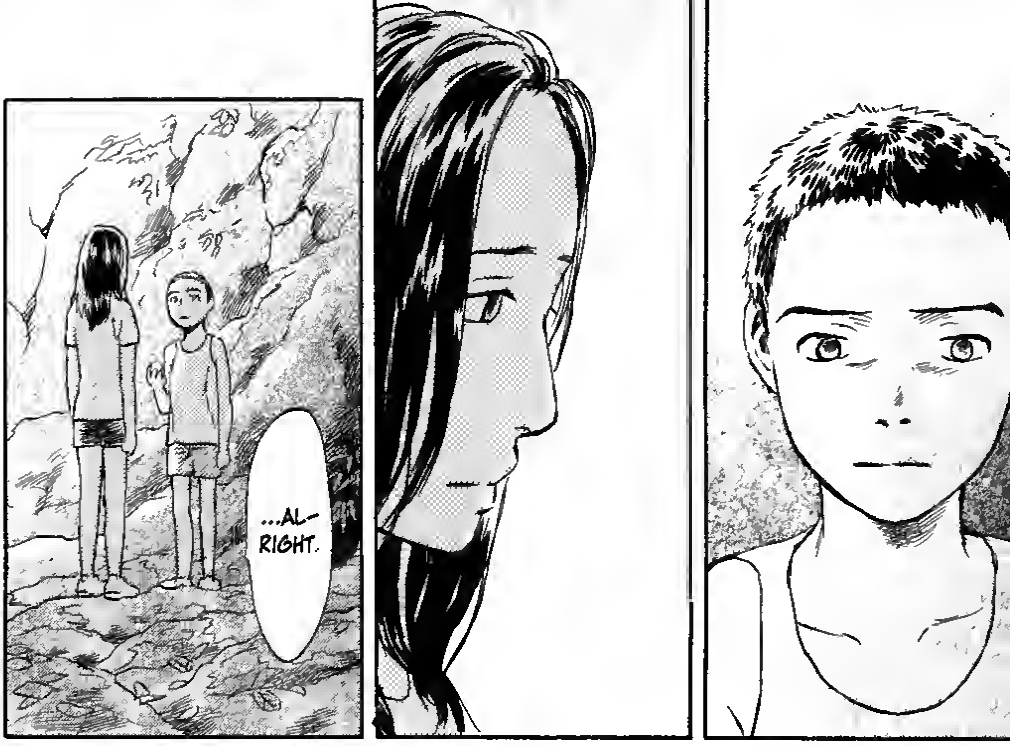

UMM...
ACTU-ALLY,
I DON'T THINK I CAN GO AWAY FOR THE MOMENT...

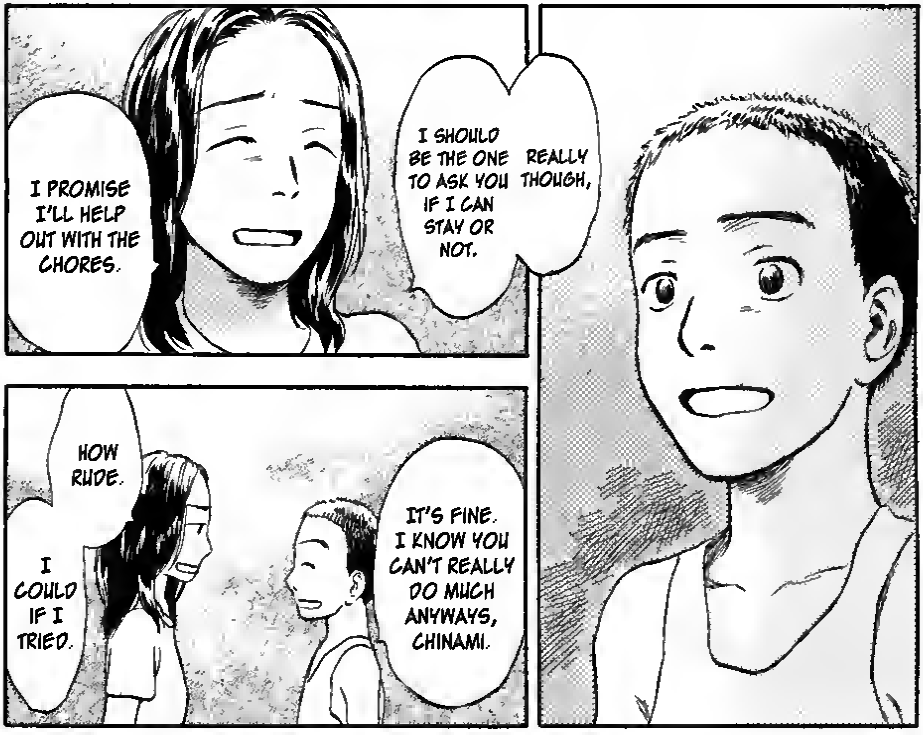
BUT...
Y-YOU'RE GOING TO GO AWAY AGAIN...


.....

CHINAMI,
COME WITH ME FOR A SEC...
HERE ...
I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOU.

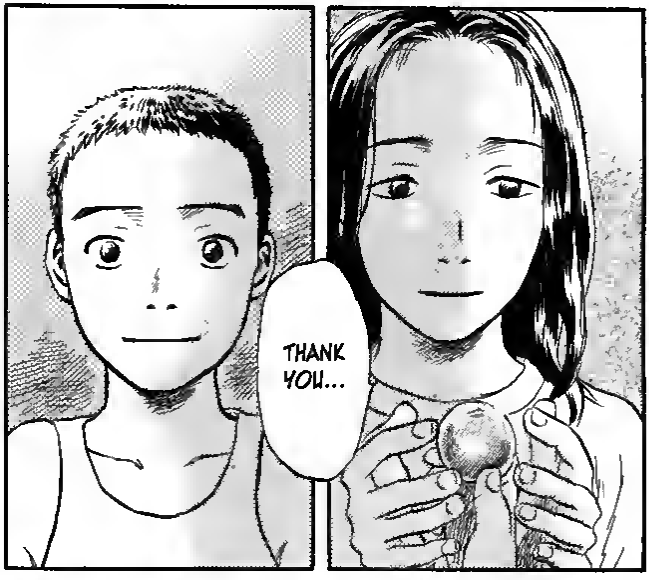
LAST NIGHT...
MY MOM SAID THAT THIS WAS A VERY PRECIOUS DRAGON ORB...
HUH?
YOU SURE?
DIDN'T YOU REALLY WANT THAT?
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU...
SO PLEASE,
STAY HERE IN THE VILLAGE FOREVER.
.....
DO YOU NOT WANT TO?

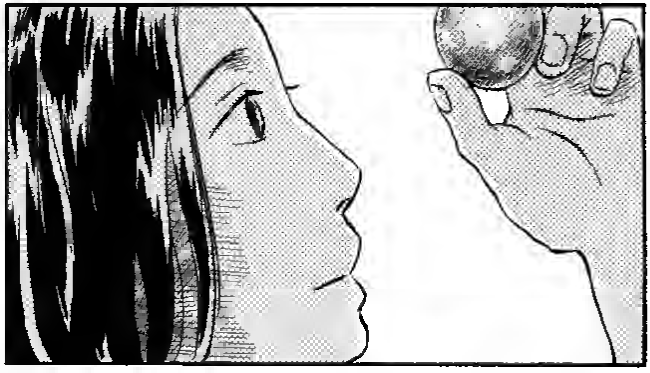

...AL-
RIGHT.

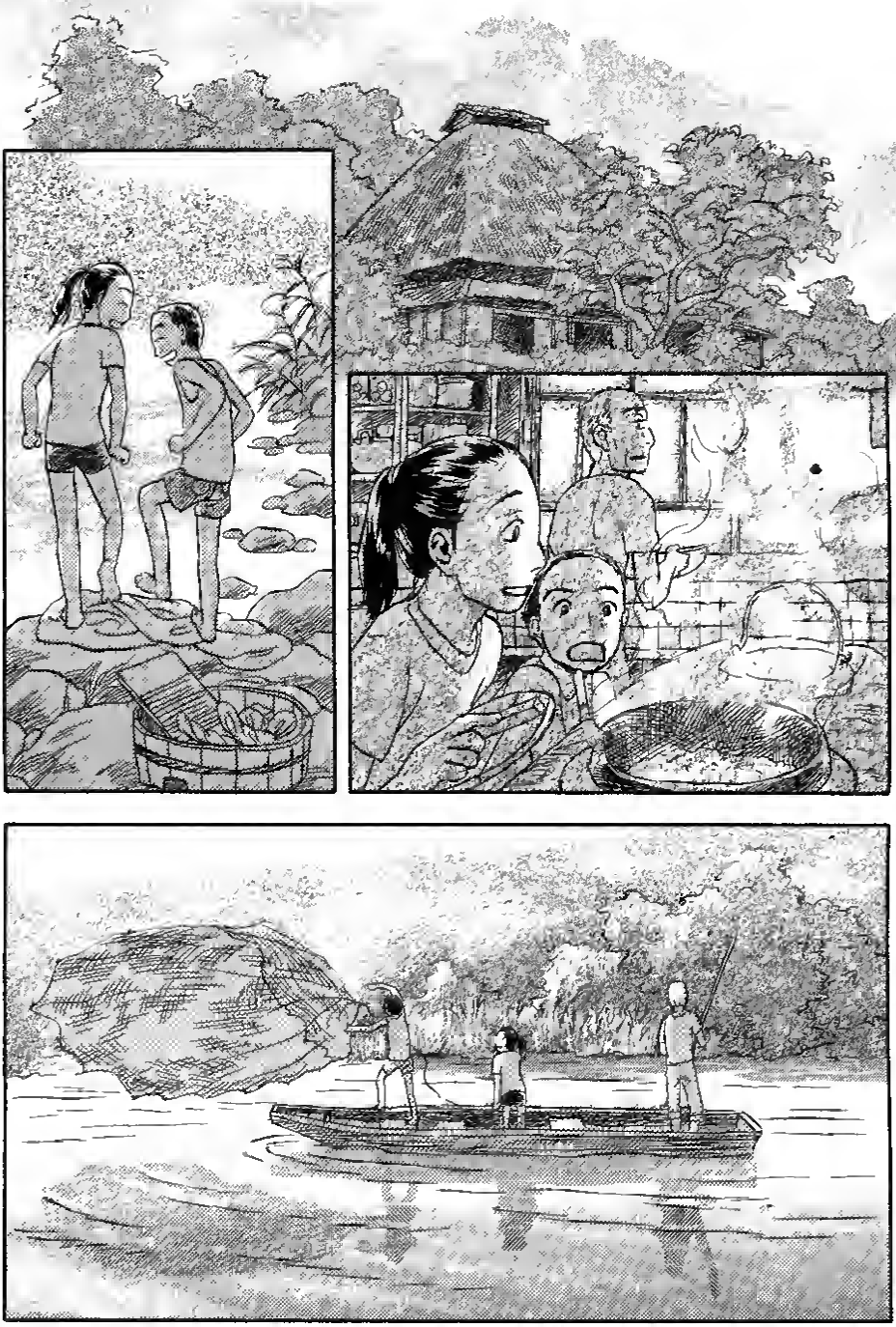

I PROMISE I'LL HELP OUT WITH THE CHORES.
I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO ASK YOU IF I CAN STAY OR NOT.
REALLY THOUGH,
HOW RUDE.
I COULD IF I TRIED.
IT'S FINE. I KNOW YOU CAN'T REALLY DO MUCH ANYWAYS, CHINAMI.

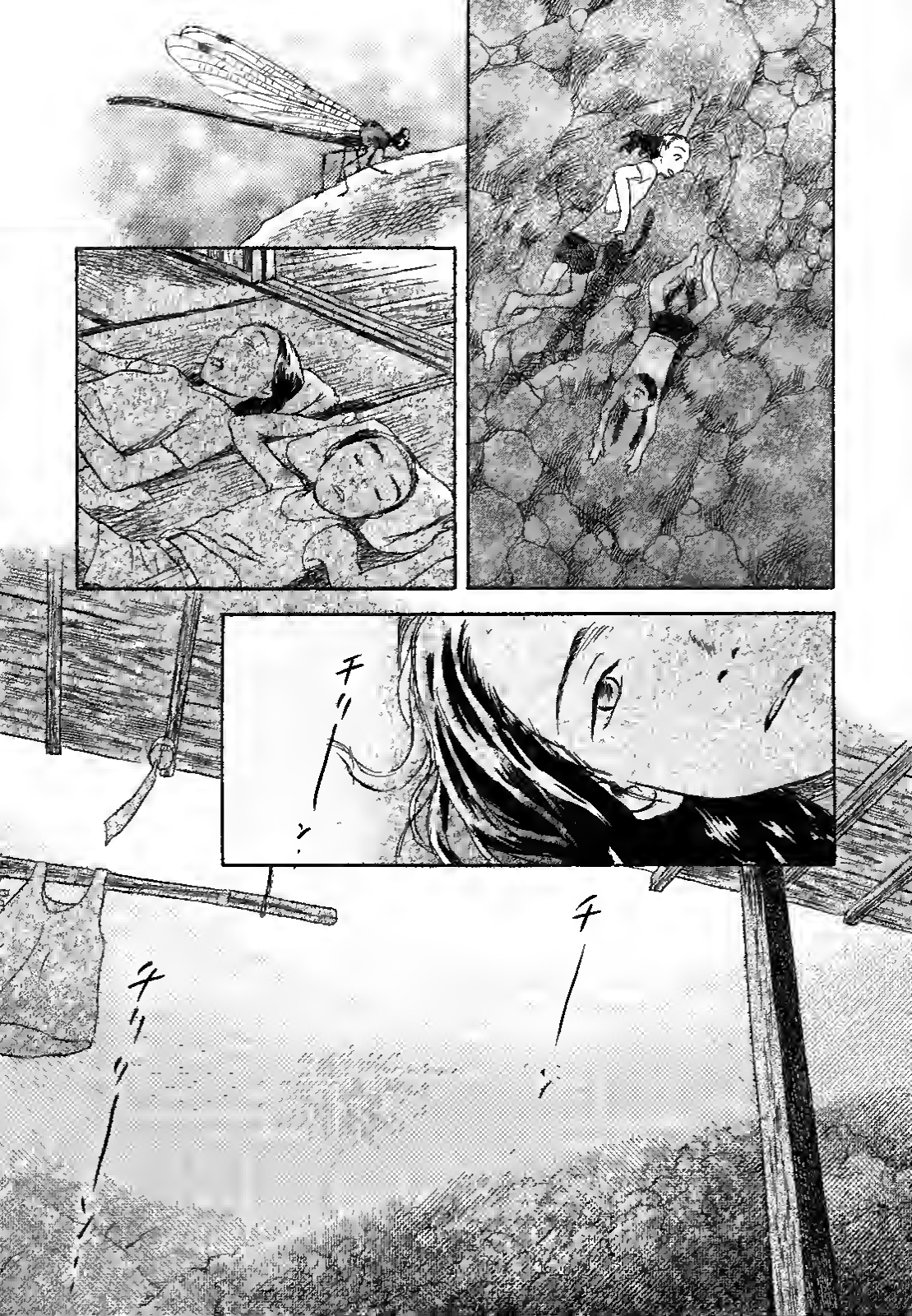
.....
WELL THEN,
HERE YOU GO.

IT'S SO PRETTY...


THANK YOU...



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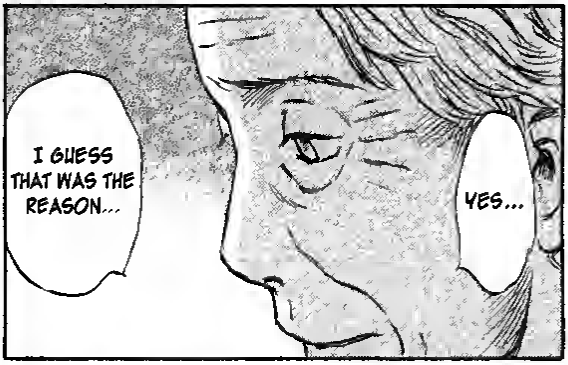
YOU KNOW,
I ACTUALLY DREAMT ABOUT IT TOO THIS MORNING.
IF CHINAMI'S DREAMING ABOUT THAT VILLAGE AGAIN...
I WONDER

IN IT, I SAW SUMIO, YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE...
YOUR FATHER,
AND EVEN CHINA-MI...
EVERYONE GATHERED AT OUR OLD HOME...
.....
I SAW IT TOO.
TOORU AND HIS MOTHER HARUMI WERE IN OUR HOME, TOO.
WE ALL ATE DINNER TOGETHER
IT WAS SUCH A HAPPY DREAM...

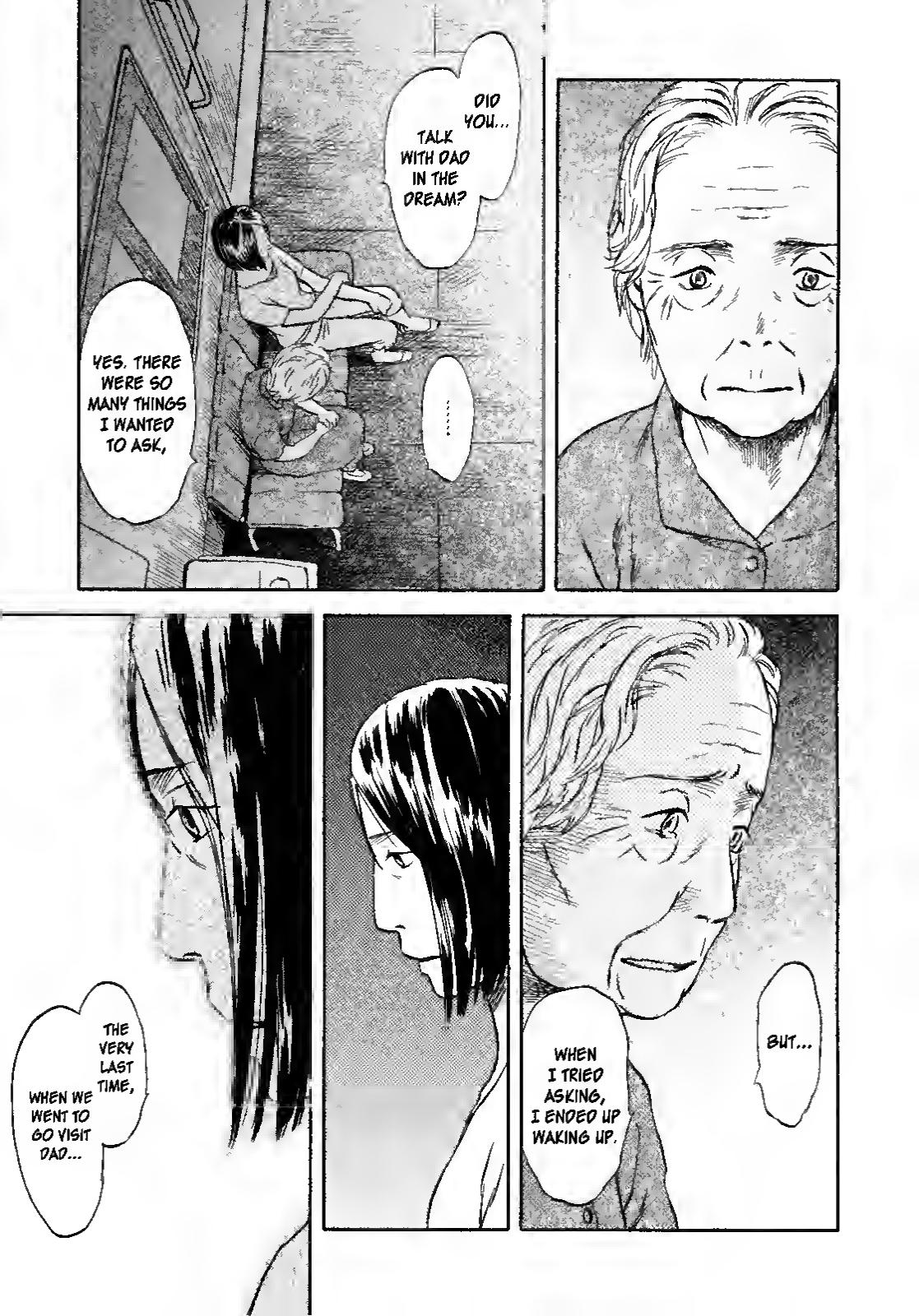
SEE THAT NEWS REPORT ABOUT THE DAM AND OUR VILLAGE?
DID YOU HAPPEN TO...

WE DREAMT THE SAME DREAM...
IT SEEMS LIKE...

I WONDER
IF DAD HAD THE SAME DREAM AS US TOO...?


I GUESS THAT WAS THE REASON...
YES...

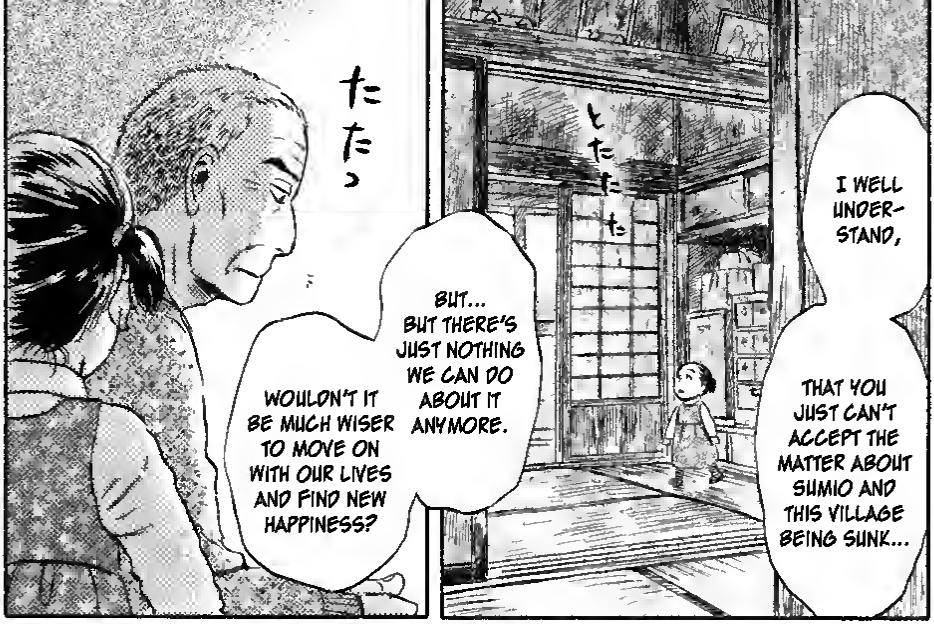
...FOR AN IN-STANT,
IT REALLY FELT LIKE I WAS PULLED BACK THERE AGAIN...


DID YOU... TALK WITH DAD IN THE DREAM?
.....
YES. THERE WERE SO MANY THINGS I WANTED TO ASK,
BUT...
WHEN I TRIED ASKING, I ENDED UP WAKING UP.
THE VERY LAST TIME, WHEN WE WENT TO GO VISIT DAD...

CHINAMI WAS THERE, TOO...
SHE PROB-ABLY
DOESN'T REALLY REMEMBER IT, BUT...
ガタガタ
ゴロロロ

バタン
PLEASE, DAD...
THE CONSTRUCTION FOR THIS AREA WILL BEGIN THIS SPRING.
SO, PLEASE... JUST COME WITH US.
IT'LL BE HARD FOR US TO EVEN COME VISIT ONCE IT STARTS SNOWING.
IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU...
PLEASE. JUST LEAVE ME BE UNTIL SPRING.

WHY...
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO STILL BE SO PERSIST-ENT?
THIS PLACE IS...
ALREADY NOTHING BUT A GHOST TOWN...
I REALLY DO THINK THE CITY I'M LIVING IN NOW IS MUCH BETTER THAN HERE.
IT'S VERY EASY TO BECOME ATTACHED TO.
THERE'S THIS WIDE RIVER
AND A GENTLE STREAM.
CHINAMI LOVES TO PLAY IN THAT RIVER.
I'M SURE YOU'LL LIKE IT IF YOU JUST TRIED LIVING THERE...
IT CAN BE OUR NEW HOME.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WOULDN'T IT BE MUCH WISER TO MOVE ON WITH OUR LIVES AND FIND NEW HAPPINESS?
BUT... BUT THERE'S JUST NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT ANYMORE.
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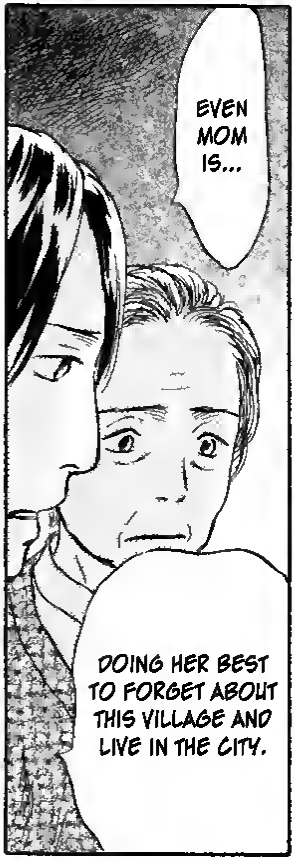
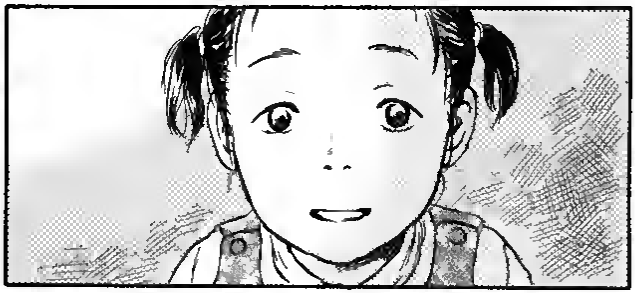
I WELL UNDERSTAND,
THAT YOU JUST CAN'T ACCEPT THE MATTER ABOUT SUMIO AND THIS VILLAGE BEING SUNK...


EVEN MOM IS...
DOING HER BEST TO FORGET ABOUT THIS VILLAGE AND LIVE IN THE CITY.

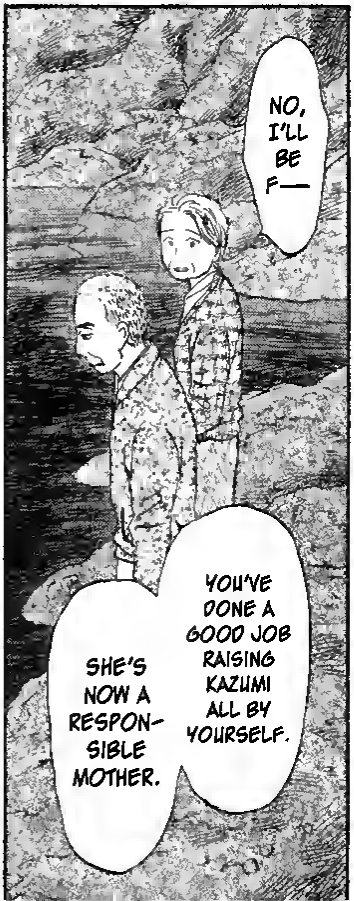


BUT YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TRIED YET!
I... I JUST CAN'T.
DAD...
SO YOU REALLY DO THINK YOUR MEMORIES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR LOVED ONES STILL IN THIS WORLD, DON'T YOU...
KAZUMI...!
.....
I'M SORRY.

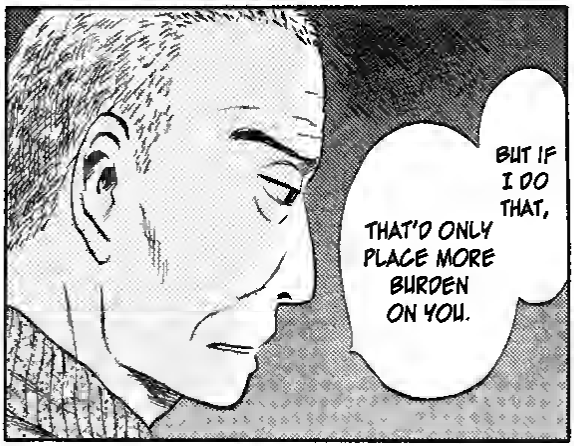
IT'S THE TRUTH, ISN'T IT?
BUT...
IT'S JUST AS KAZUMI SAID... I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF...
IT'S...
TATSU-MI...

I JUST KNOW MY MIND WILL ALWAYS BE HERE.
NO MATTER WHERE I GO,

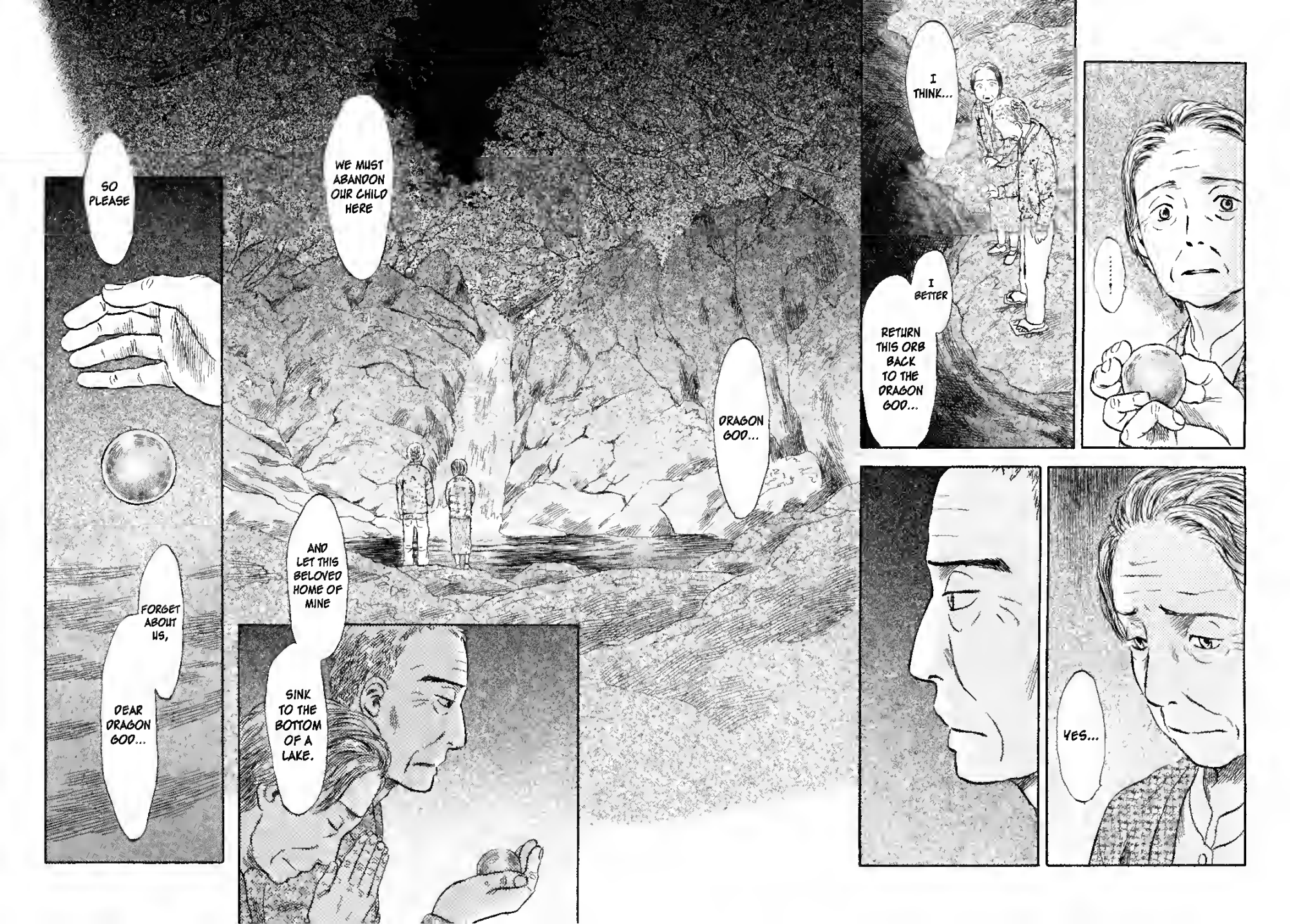
THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THIS VILLAGE...
I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO PRETEND


SHE'S NOW A RESPON-SIBLE MOTHER.
YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB RAISING KAZUMI ALL BY YOURSELF.
NO, I'LL BE F—

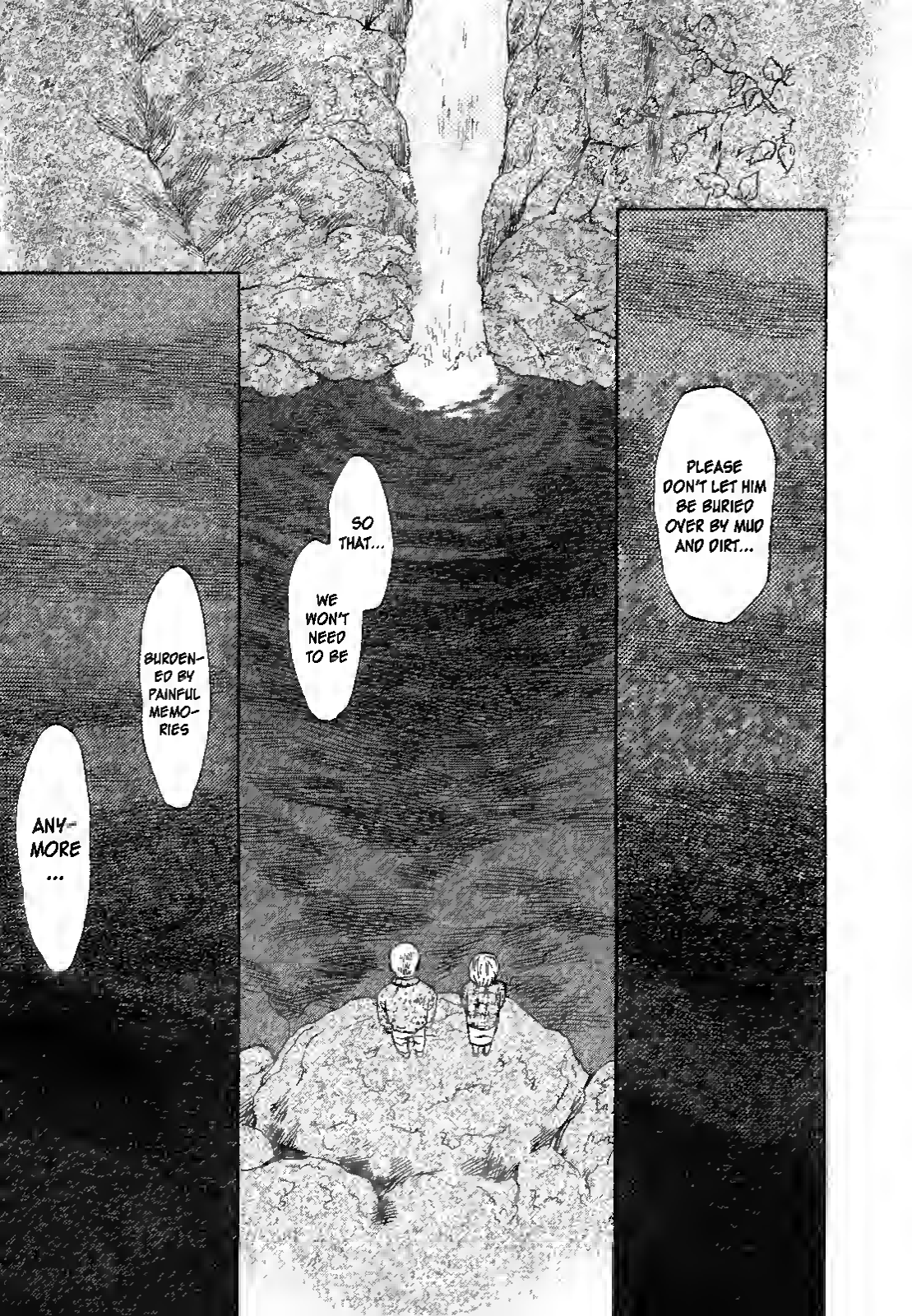
YOU DON'T NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF TO TRY AND FORGET...
IT'S FINE.


THAT'D ONLY PLACE MORE BURDEN ON YOU.
BUT IF I DO THAT,

I'LL LEAVE THIS VILLAGE NEXT MONTH.
SORRY, FOR GIVING YOU SO MUCH GRIEF OVER THE YEARS...
IT'S ABOUT TIME
I ACT MORE RESPONSIBLY, TOO.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
...YES, DEAR.
I'LL... CONTACT YOU THEN...


SO PLEASE
FORGET ABOUT US,
DEAR DRAGON GOD...
WE MUST ABANDON OUR CHILD HERE
AND LET THIS BELOVED HOME OF MINE
SINK TO THE BOTTOM OF A LAKE.
DRAGON GOD...
I THINK...
I BETTER RETURN THIS ORB BACK TO THE DRAGON GOD...
.....
YES...

PLEASE,
WATCH OVER HIM...
HOW-EVER...
IF OUR CHILD'S SOUL IS STILL AT THE BOTTOM OF THESE WATERS...


PLEASE DON'T LET HIM BE BURIED OVER BY MUD AND DIRT...
SO THAT...
WE WON'T NEED TO BE
BURDENED BY PAINFUL MEMORIES
ANYMORE ...

DAD?
DAD...?
YOU SAID YOU'D CONTACT US, BUT IT'S ALREADY...

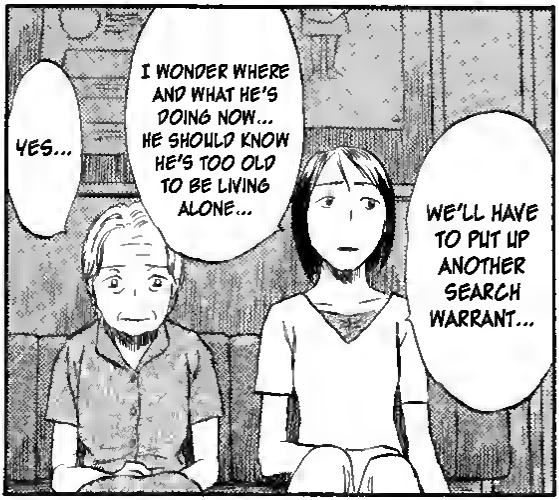
HM?
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'D EVER ROB ANYBODY, EITHER...
BUT THE BUS DOESN'T EVEN COME HERE ANYMORE. I DON'T SEE HOW HE COULD EVEN LEAVE...
DID YOU FIND HIM?
I LOOKED BELOW AS WELL,
BUT, I DON'T THINK HE'S ANY-WHERE NEAR HERE.
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY MONEY...
NOR ANY BELONGINGS TO TAKE WITH HIM...
LAST TIME...
YOUR FATHER
SAID HE DION'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN ON US ANYMORE...

I'M SURE HE'S JUST AT THE FIELDS OR BY THE RIVER.
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM.
DAAAAAD?
WHERE ARE YOU!?
DAAAAAAD!?

IT'S BEEN...

FIVE TO SIX YEARS SINCE WE GOT THAT ODD CALL FROM SOME STRANGER THAT SOUNDED LIKE DAD...

YES, IT HAS...


YES...
I WONDER WHERE AND WHAT HE'S DOING NOW... HE SHOULD KNOW HE'S TOO OLD TO BE LIVING ALONE...
WE'LL HAVE TO PUT UP ANOTHER SEARCH WARRANT...

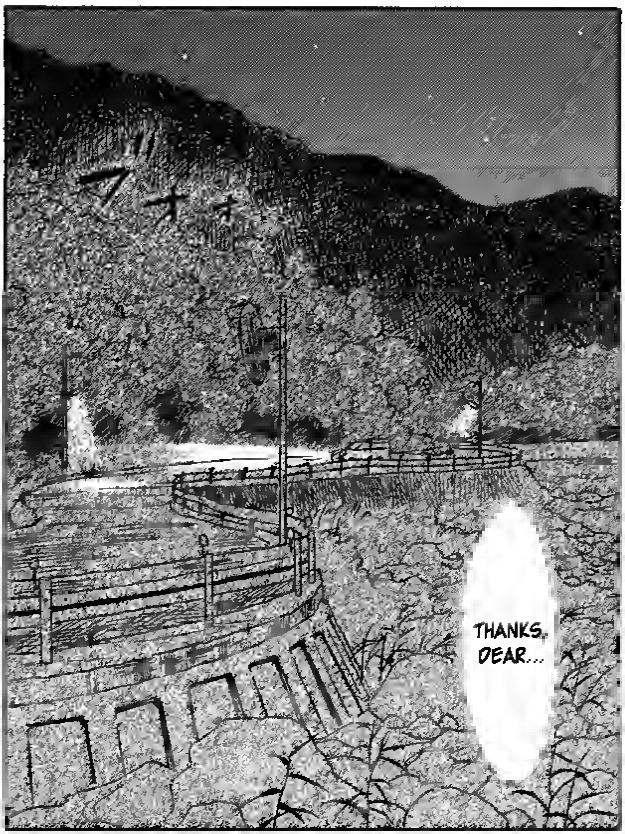
IN MY DREAM,
SUMIO SAID HE FOUND IT AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT VERY BASIN...
...THEN THAT MEANS THE VILLAGE IN THE DREAM IS THE ONE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DAM RESERVOIR.
THAT ORB...
THE ORB THAT TATSUMI DROPPED BACK INTO THE WATERFALL BASIN...
HM?
IF THAT'S THE CASE,
THEN CHINAMI'S AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DAM RESERVOIR TOO...
MOM?
PERHAPS ...
THE DRAGON GOD GRANTED OUR WISH BACK THEN...

CHINAMI...
BRING BACK
I HAVE TO GO...
MOM?
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
W-WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?
CAN'T YOU SEE THIS IS ALL SO CRA—
PLEASE, KAZUMI! WE HAVE TO GO!
THE RESERVOIR'S ALL DRIED UP.
WE CAN REACH THE VILLAGE...!
GO? GO WHERE?
TO THE VILLAGE.

WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO THAT VILLAGE
IN ORDER
TO BRING BACK CHINAMI!

Chapter 08
End

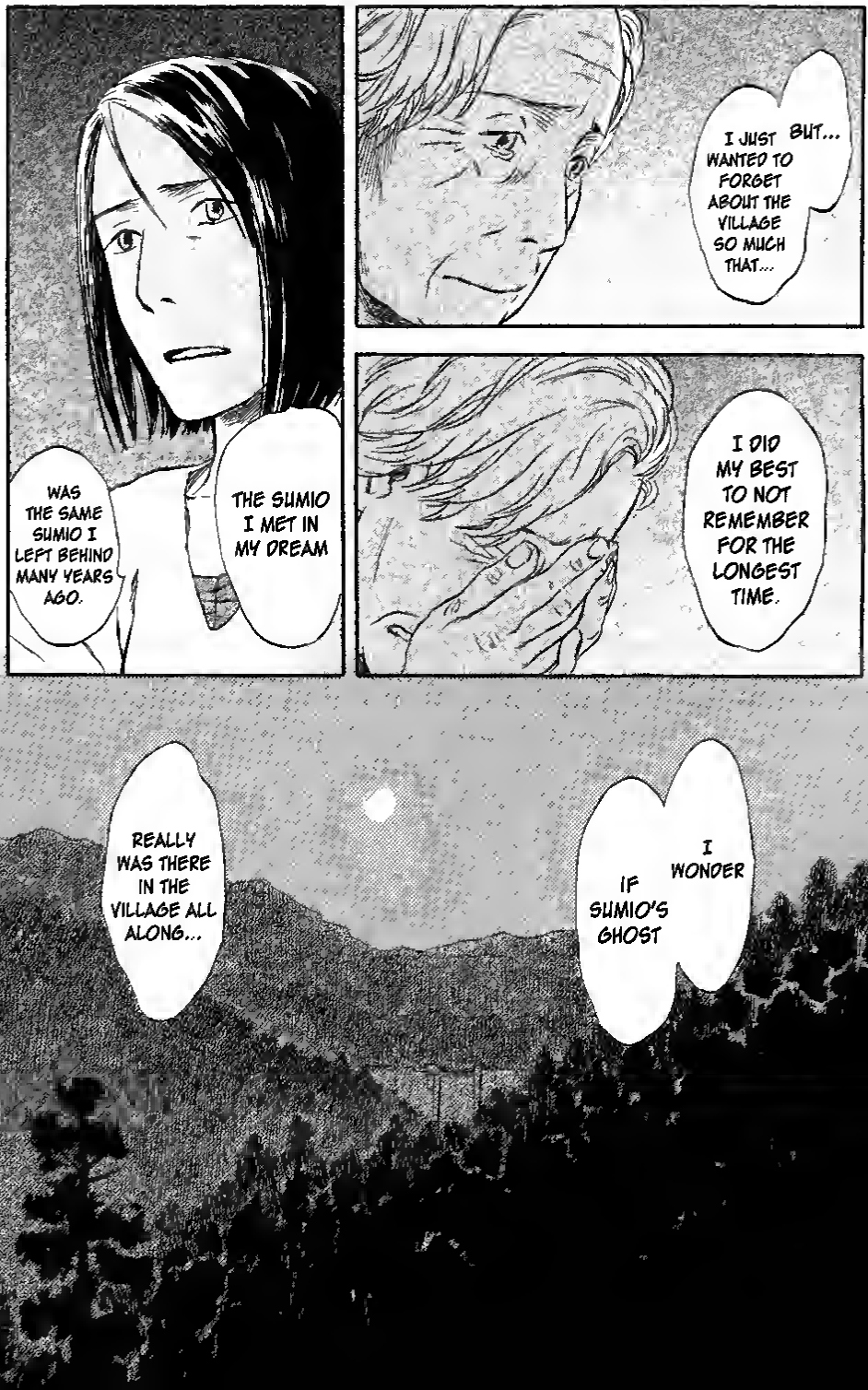
Chapter 09
Bottom of the Reservoir

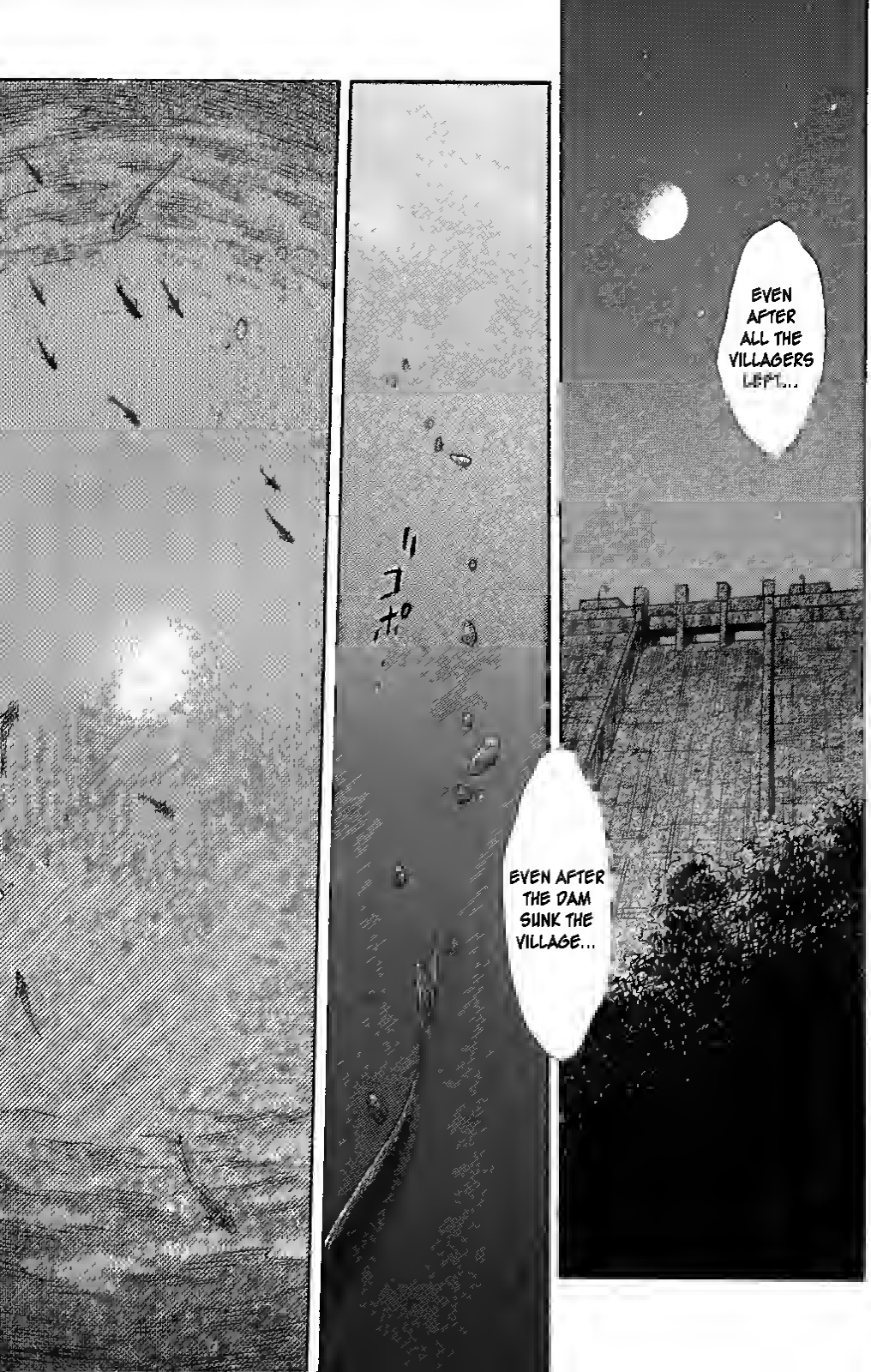

フォォォ
THANKS, DEAR...

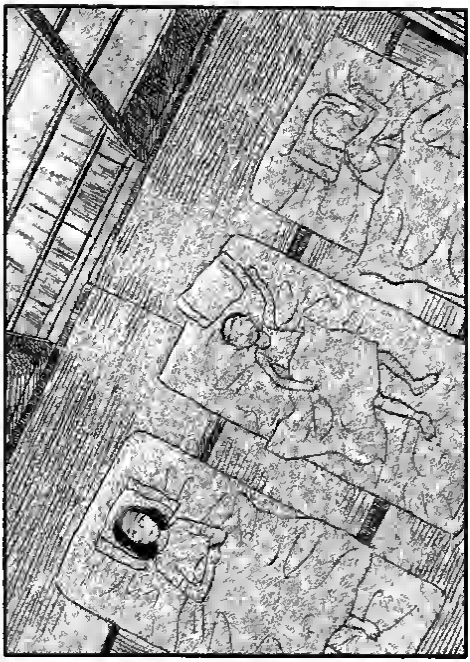
フォォォ

FOR GOING ALONG WITH THIS CRAZY IDEA OF MINE.
THANK YOU

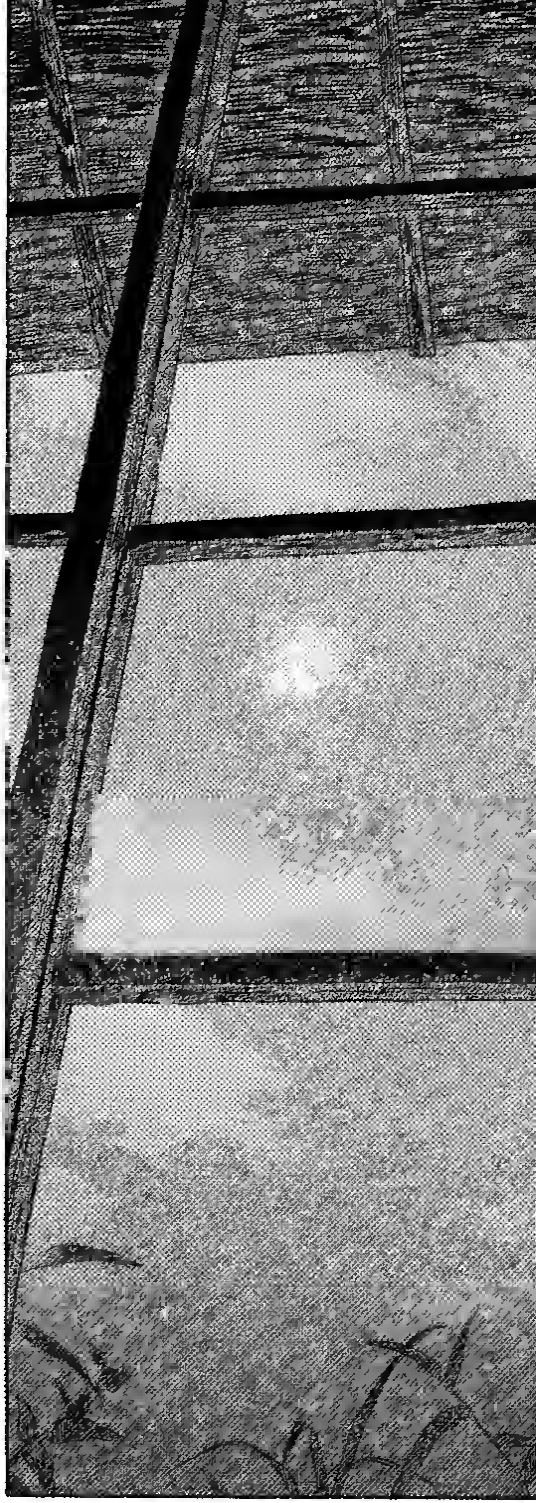
WHAT IS IT?
MOM,
WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT IF I SAID SOMETHING WEIRD TOO?
HE LOOKED EXACTLY AS HE DID IN HIS PHOTOS...
BACK WHEN...
WE LIVED IN THE VILLAGE
I ACTUALLY MET
SUMIO'S GHOST SEVERAL TIMES BY THE WATERFALL.
HE CHEERED ME UP WHENEVER I WAS CRYING.

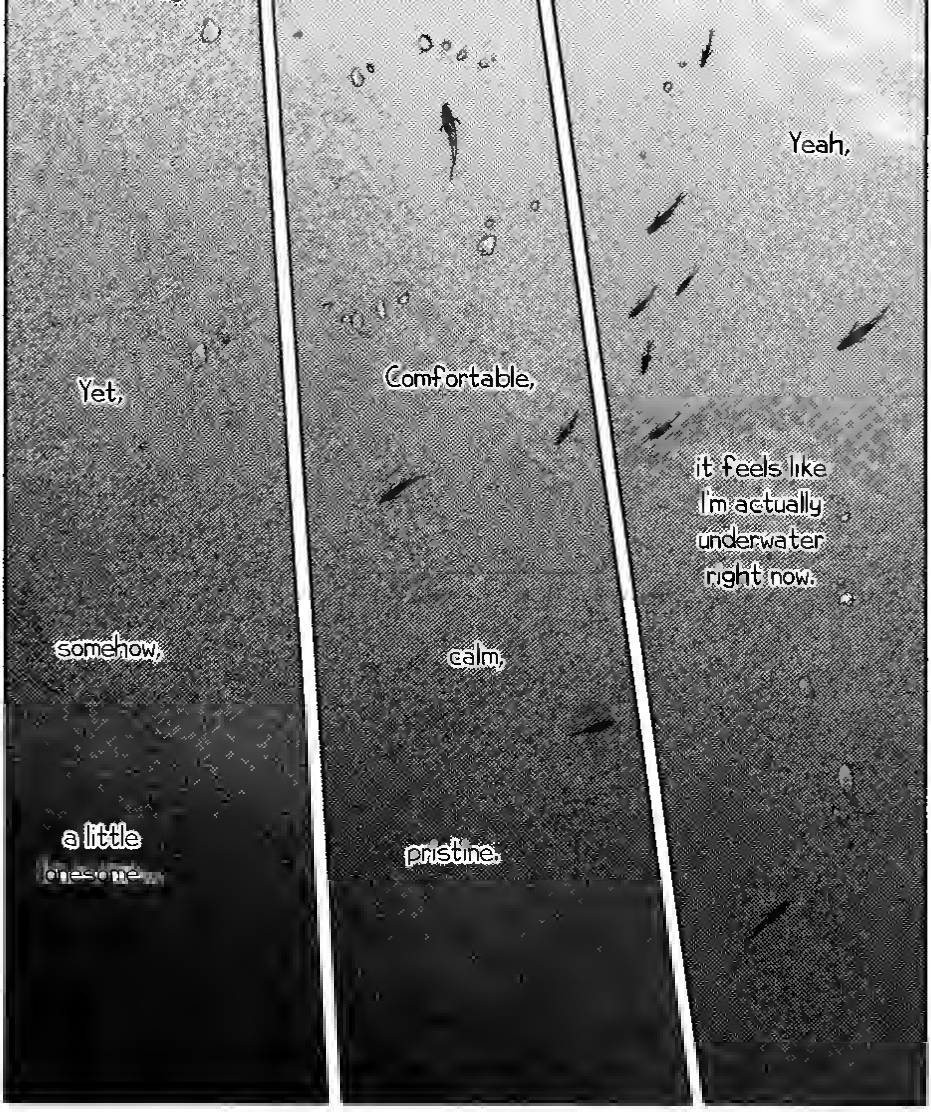

THE SUMIO I MET IN MY DREAM
WAS THE SAME SUMIO I LEFT BEHIND MANY YEARS AGO.
I JUST WANTED TO FORGET ABOUT THE VILLAGE SO MUCH THAT...
BUT...
I DID MY BEST TO NOT REMEMBER FOR THE LONGEST TIME.
I WONDER IF SUMIO'S GHOST
REALLY WAS THERE IN THE VILLAGE ALL ALONG...


EVEN AFTER ALL THE VILLAGERS LEFT...
EVEN AFTER THE DAM SUNK THE VILLAGE...

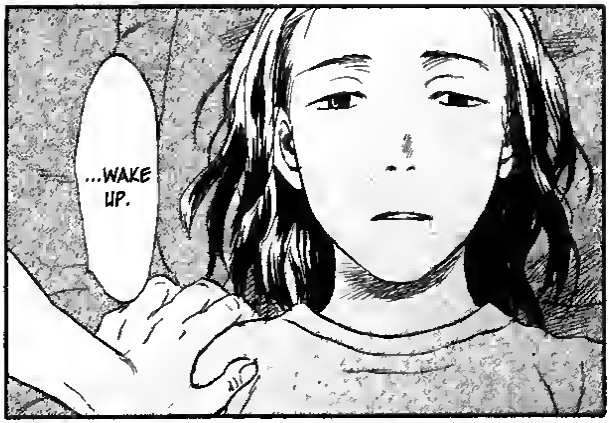


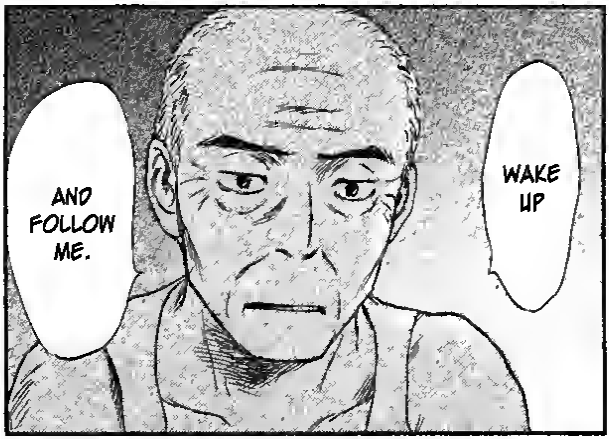
THAT MOON...
IT ALMOST SEEMS I'M LOOKING AT IT FROM UNDERWATER.

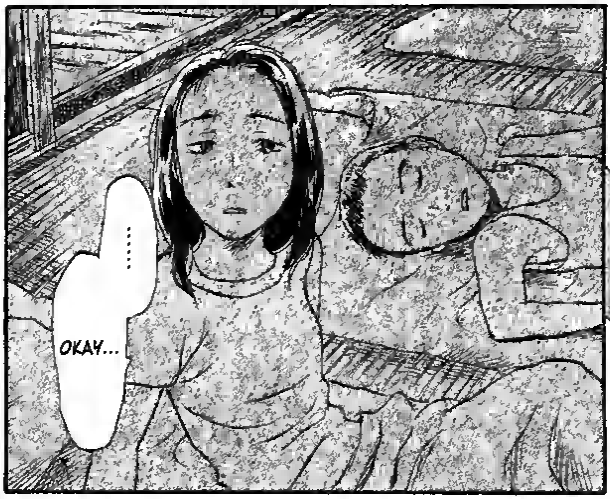


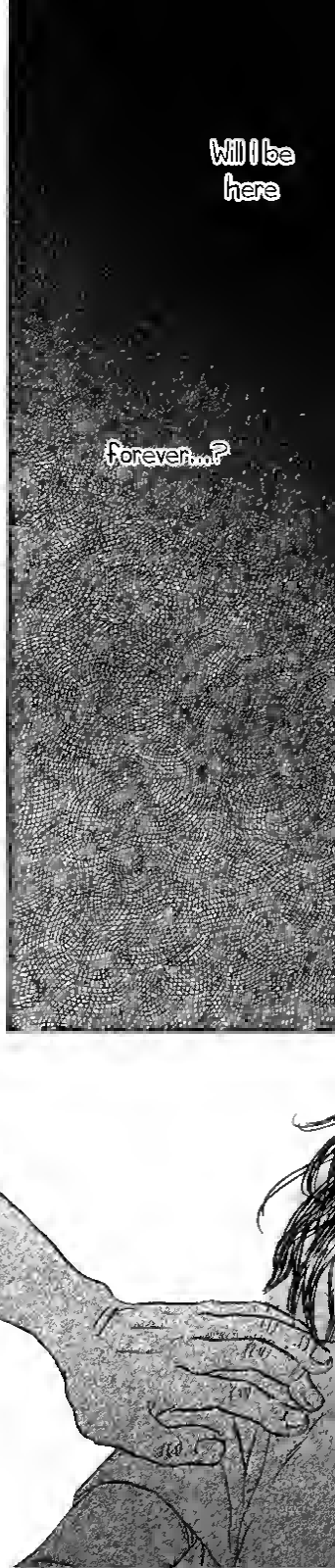

Yeah,
Comfortable,
it feels like I'm actually underwater right now.
Yet,
somehow,
calm,
a little
lonesome...
pristine.

I wonder if I'll wake up here
tomorrow as well...?


...WAKE UP.


WAKE UP
AND FOLLOW ME.


.....
OKAY...


Will I be here
forever...?

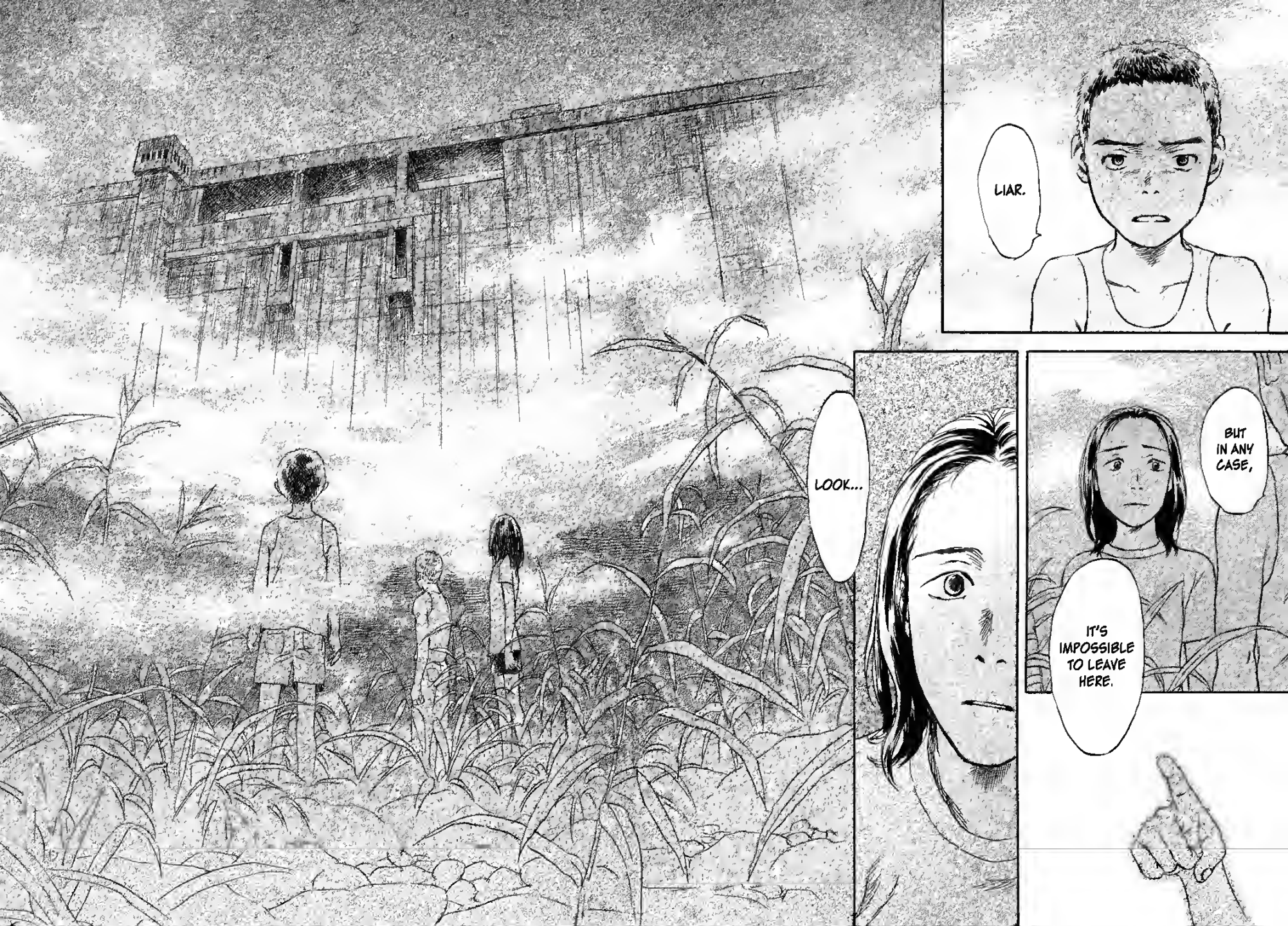
UMM...
WHERE ARE WE GOING, GRAMPS?
BACK.
YOU'RE ...
KAZUMI'S DAUGHTER, AREN'T YOU?
THIS PLACE
ISN'T FOR YOU TO STAY IN.
NO WONDER I FELT LIKE I'VE MET YOU BEFORE.

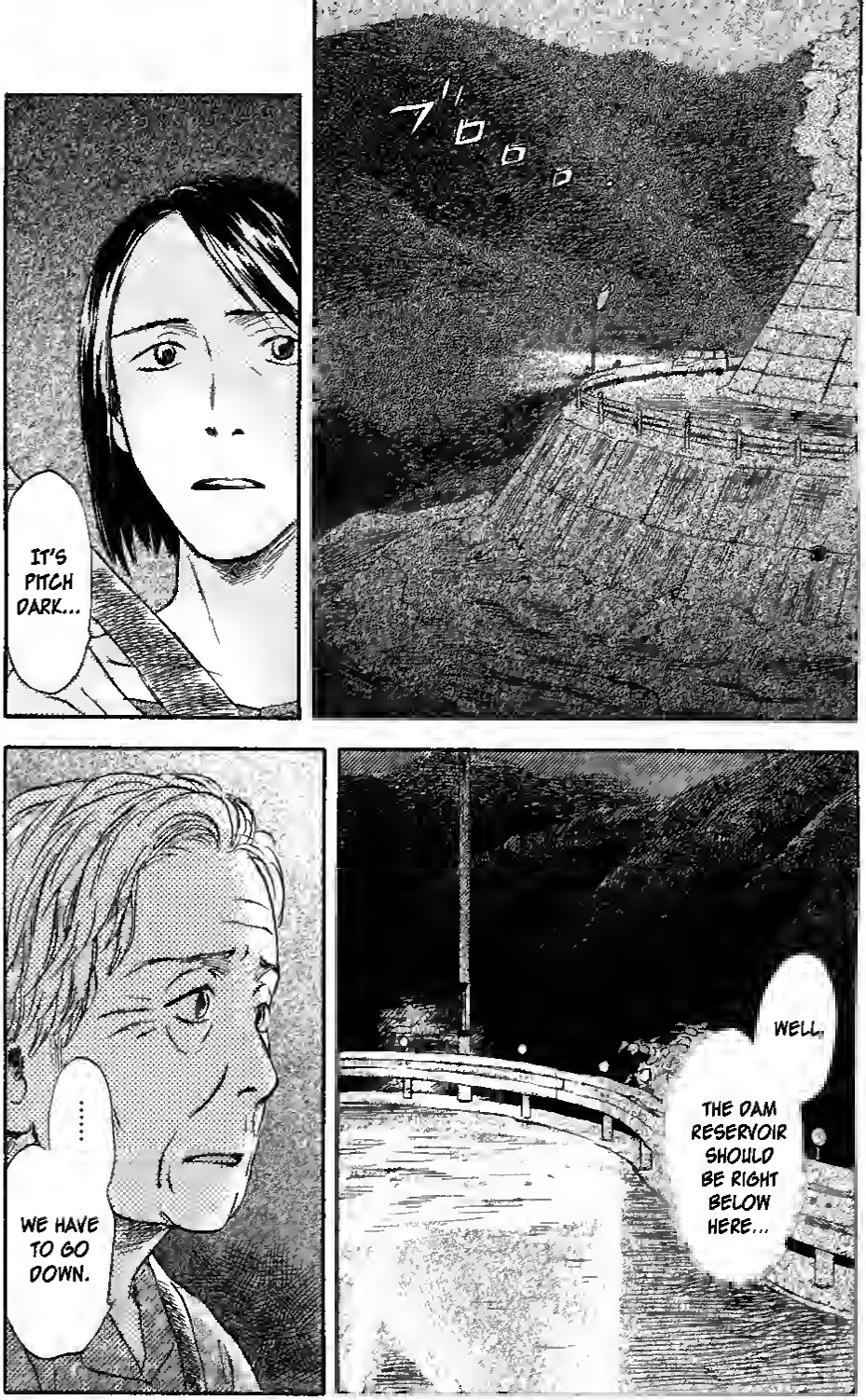
GRAND-PA.
YES,
I FELT THE SAME WAY TOO,
BUT,
IF YOU STAY HERE,
YOU'LL ONLY MAKE KAZUMI AND KIYOKO WORRY.
BUT... I MADE A PROMISE TO SUMIO
THAT I'D STAY HERE FOREVER...
SO...

IF YOU
STAY HERE ANY LONGER...
YOU MAY NOT EVER BE ABLE TO RETURN HOME.
FOLLOW DOWN THIS RIVER
AND YOU JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT BACK TO YOUR TOWN.
IF I KEEP YOU HERE ANY LONGER,
I WON'T EVER BE ABLE TO LOOK YOUR MOTHER IN THE FACE.

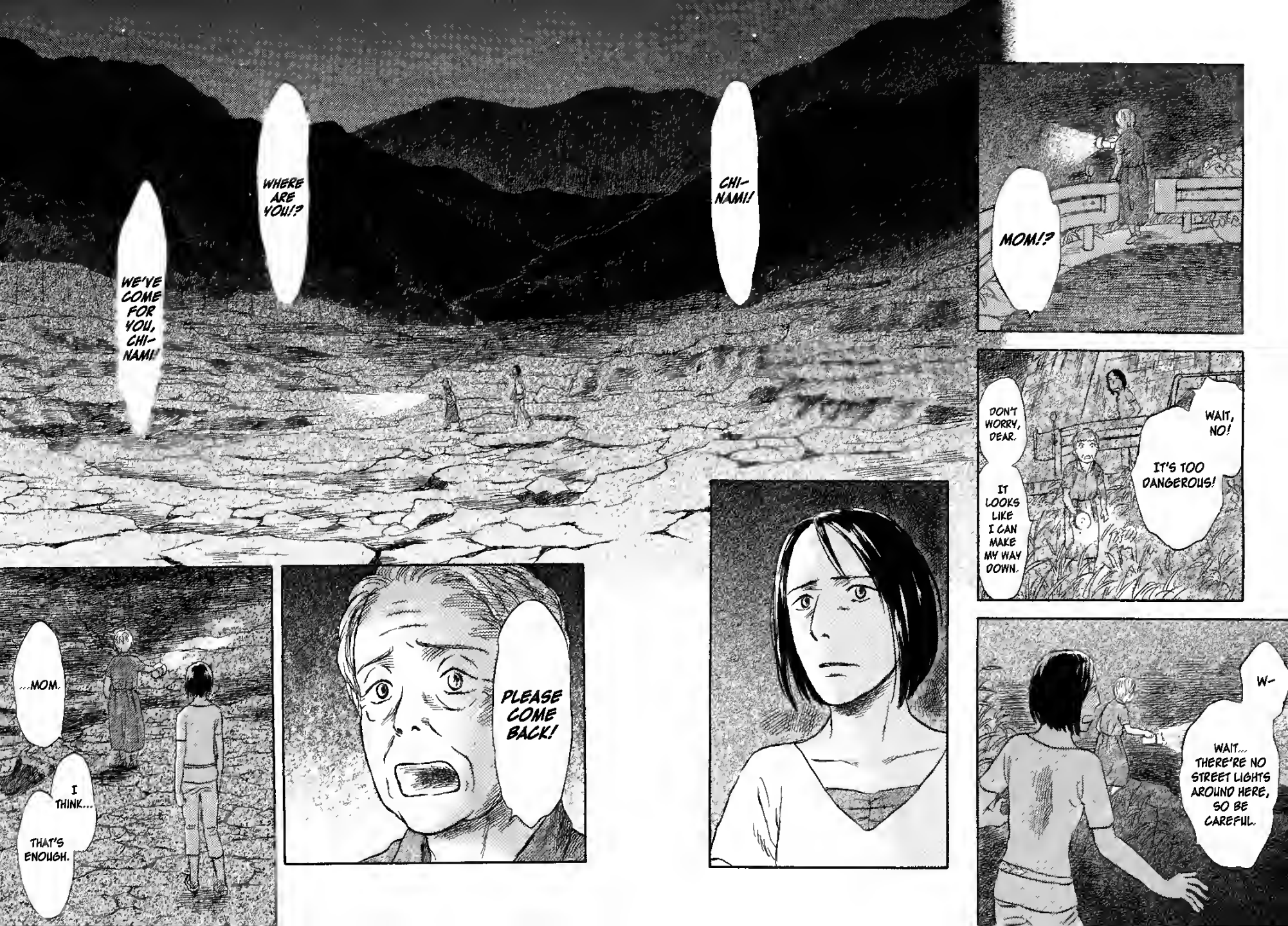
THEN...
CAN I AT LEAST SAY A PROPER GOODBYE TO SUMIO...?
.....
I'LL TELL HIM IN YOUR STEAD.
...IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T.
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT SUMIO.
I'LL BE BY HIS SIDE FOREVER...
.....
BUT...

NOW HURRY ALONG
AND GET GOING.
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
YOU WERE...
PLANNING ON DISAPPEARING WITHOUT SAYING ANY-THING AGAIN, WEREN'T YOU, CHINAMI?


LIAR.
LOOK...
BUT IN ANY CASE,
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO LEAVE HERE.


IT'S PITCH DARK...
WELL.
THE DAM RESERVOIR SHOULD BE RIGHT BELOW HERE...
.....
WE HAVE TO GO DOWN.

CHINAMIIIII!!!
WHERE ARE YOU!?
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.
IS THIS... REALLY THE PLACE OUR VILLAGE USED TO BE?


WE'VE COME FOR YOU, CHI-NAMI!
WHERE ARE YOU!?
CHI-NAMI!
MOM!?
DON'T WORRY, DEAR.
IT LOOKS LIKE I CAN MAKE MY WAY DOWN.
WAIT, NO!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
W-
WAIT... THERE'RE NO STREET LIGHTS AROUND HERE, SO BE CAREFUL.
PLEASE COME BACK!
...MOM.
I THINK...
THAT'S ENOUGH.

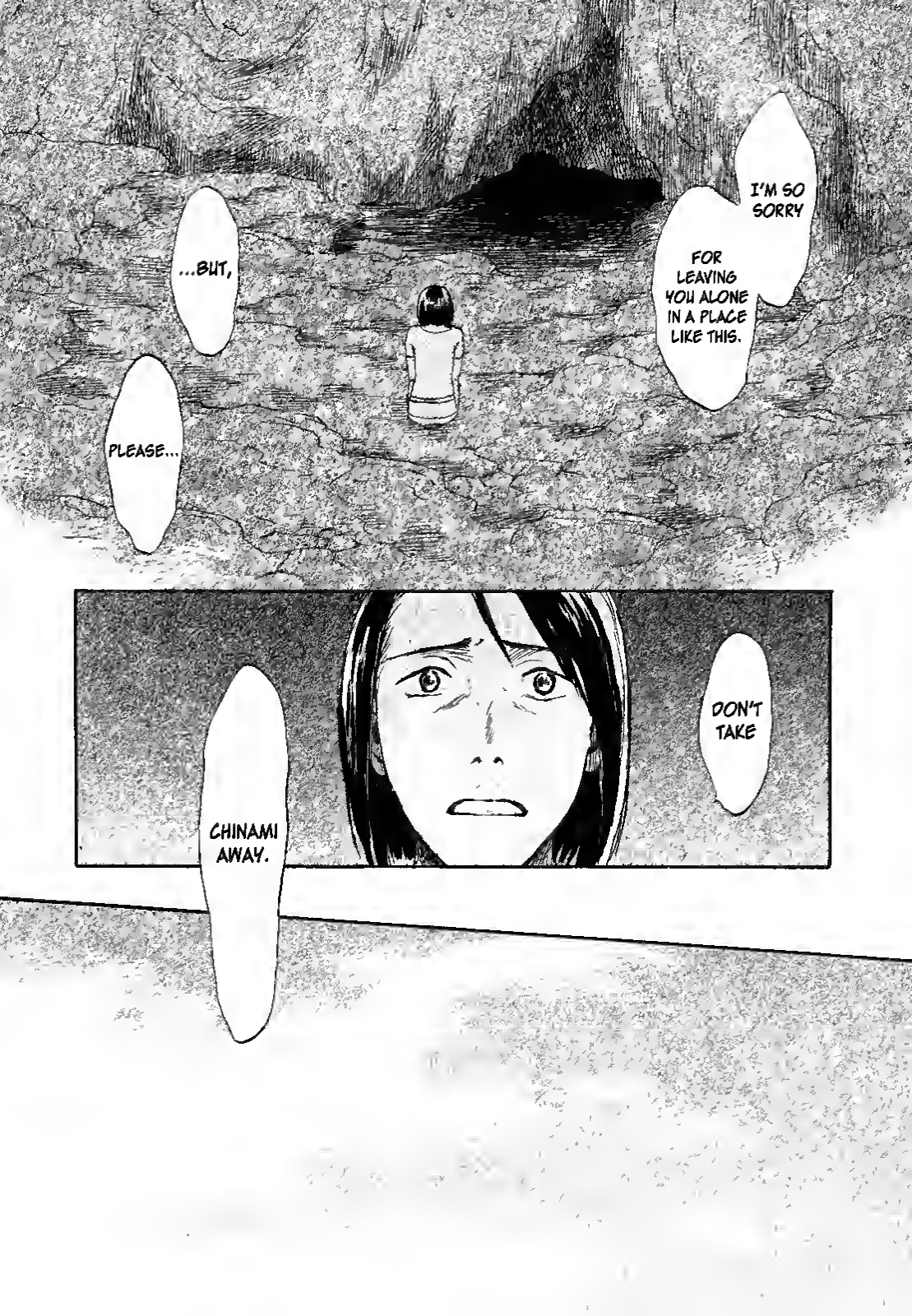
THERE?
THE WATER-FALL.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IF I COULD JUST GO THERE...
I'M SURE IF WE GO THERE...
BUT...
IT'S TOO HARD
TO TELL WHICH PART OF THE VILLAGE WE'RE EVEN IN RIGHT NOW.
IT'S OVER THERE.

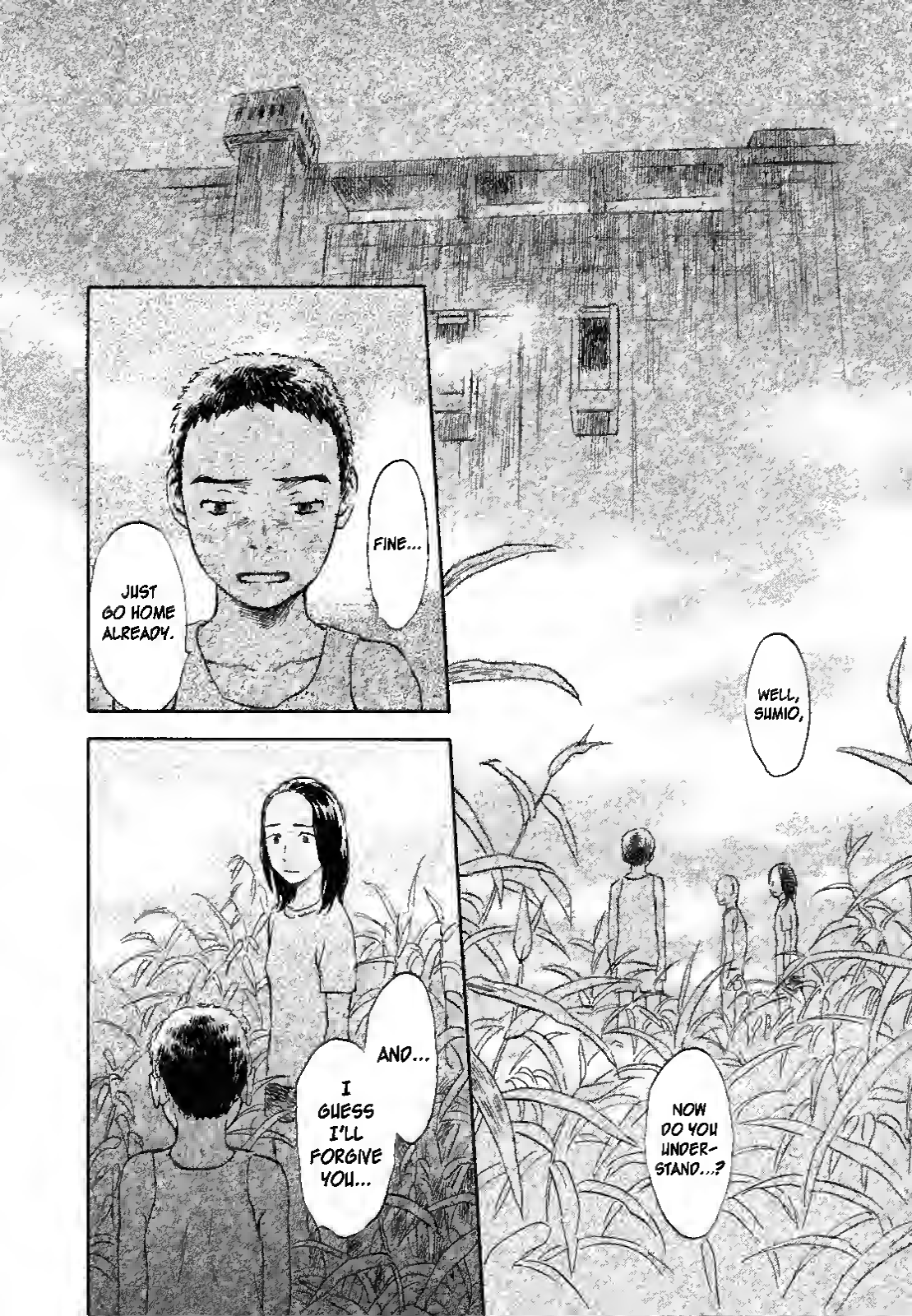
AH!
WAIT UP!
HUH,
MOM?
YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL
IF THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A WATERFALL ...
hah
hah
hah

IT'S PROB-ABLY...
AROUND HERE...

IT'S HERE!
……!
ざっ!!
カッ!!
カッ!!
ドン!!
O' DRAGON GOD...
PLEASE ...
PLEASE RETURN OUR BELOVED CHINAMI BACK TO US.

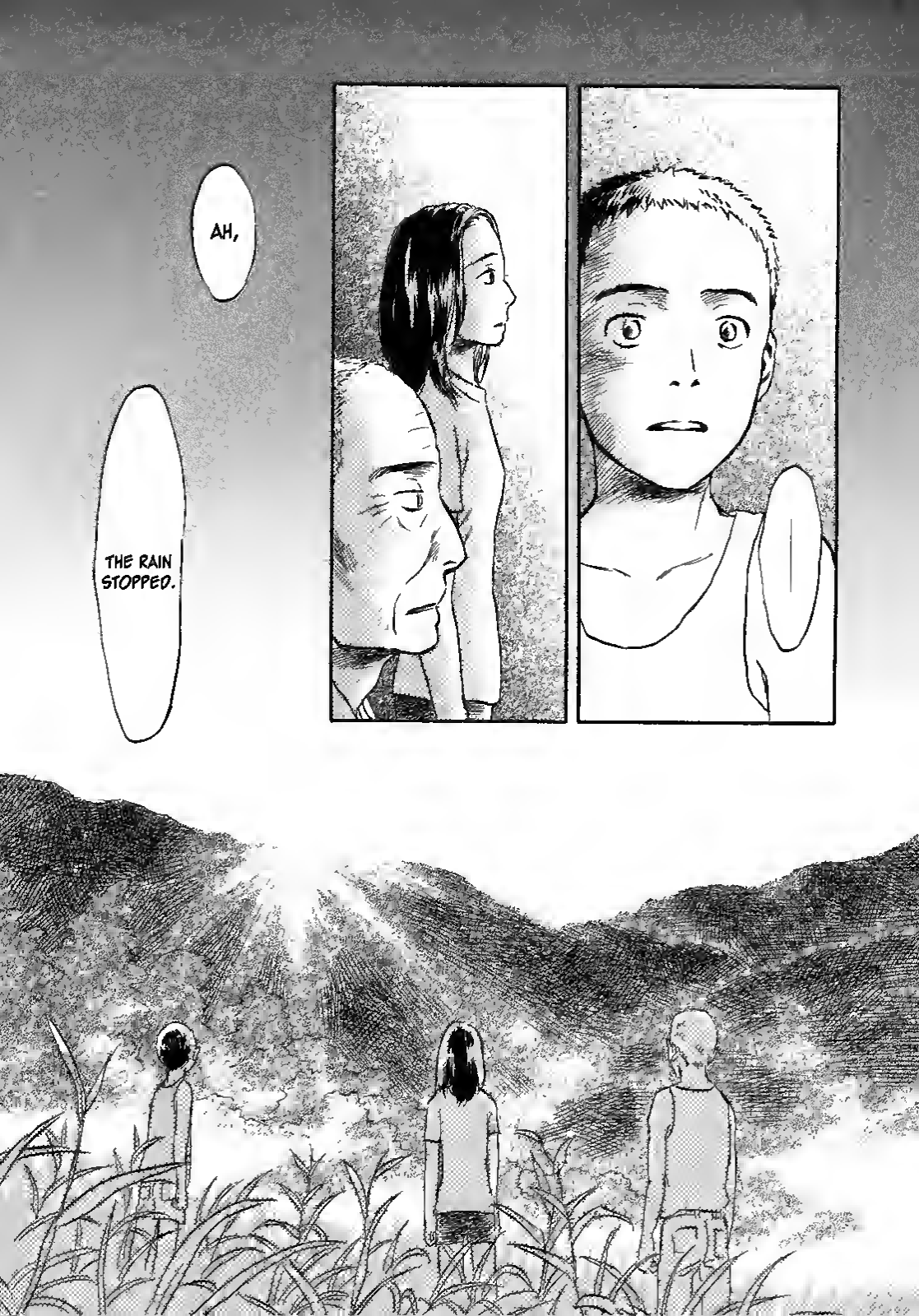
THAT CHILD
IS STILL AMONG THE LIVING.
SHE CANNOT STAY WITH SUMIO
SUMIO...
PLEASE UNDER-STAND...
SUMIO ...
ARE YOU THERE...?

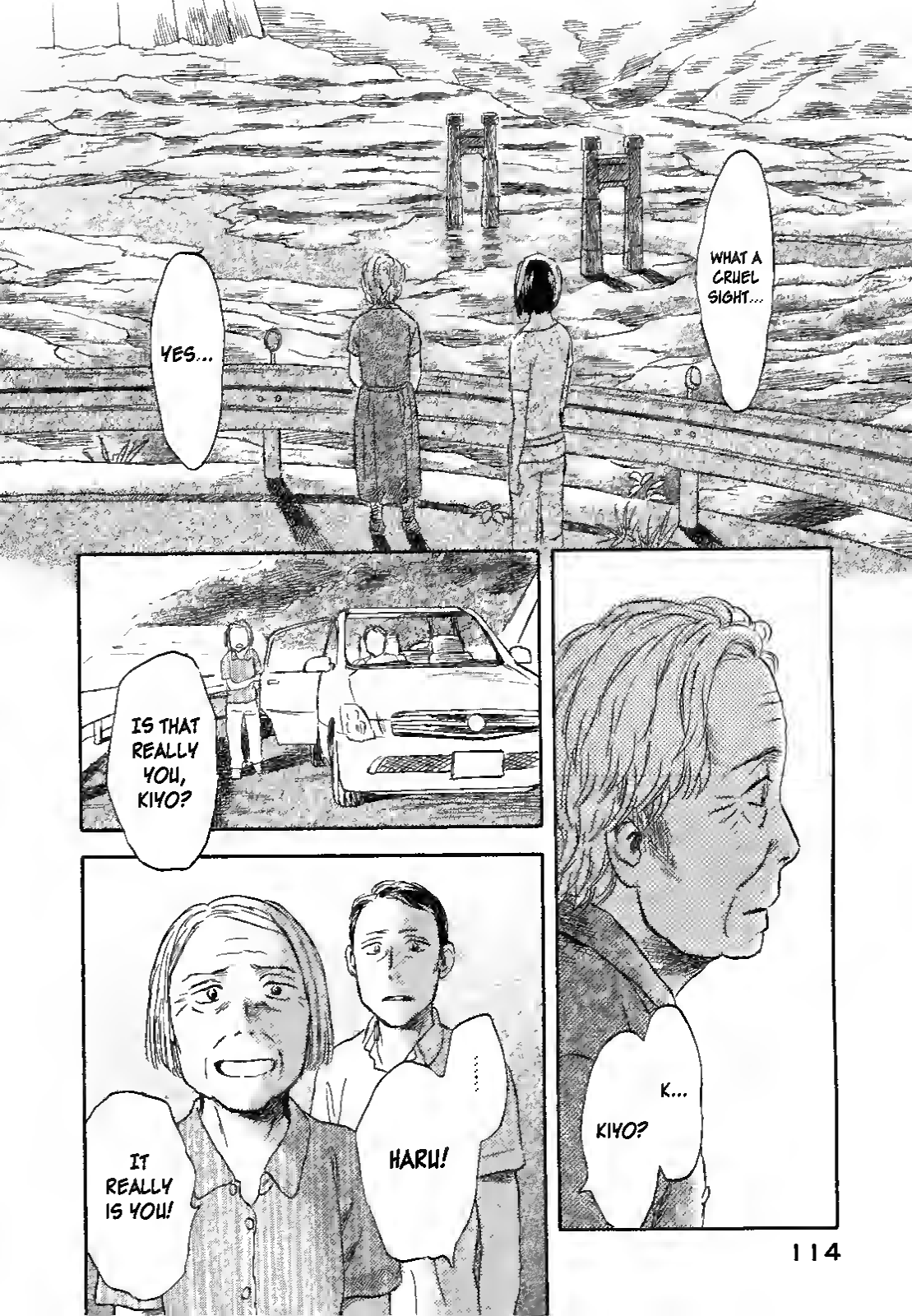

I'M SO SORRY
FOR LEAVING YOU ALONE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
...BUT,
PLEASE...
DON'T TAKE
CHINAMI AWAY.

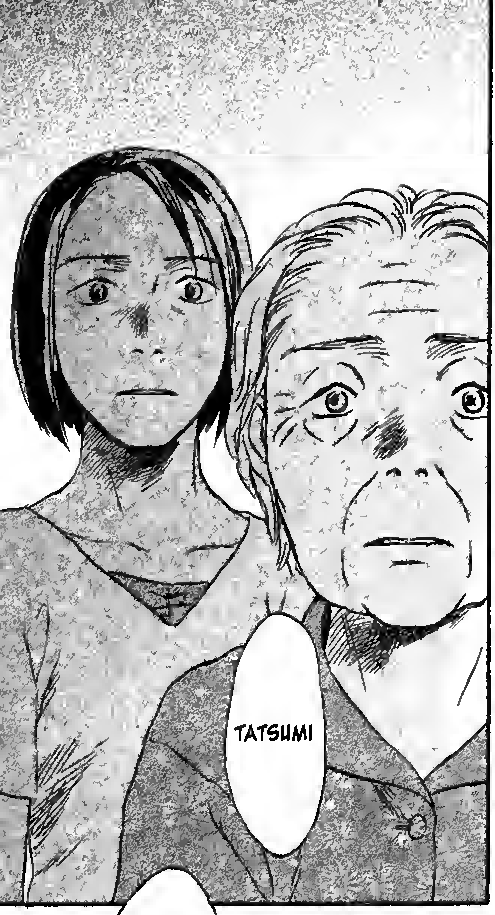

JUST GO HOME ALREADY.
FINE...
WELL, SUMIO,
NOW DO YOU UNDER-STAND...?
AND... I GUESS I'LL FORGIVE YOU...

YOU PROMISED!
YOU PROMISED YOU'D STAY HERE FOREVER!
I EVEN GAVE YOU THE DRAGON ORB!
SUMIO...
SORRY,
IT'S JUST THAT...
THERE ARE PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT ME.
BUT I'M SURE I'LL COME PLAY WITH YOU AGAIN SOMEDAY.
THIS ISN'T FAIR!

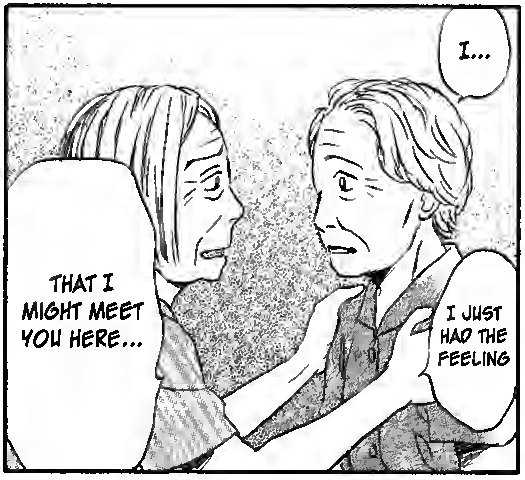
WHY!?
WHY CAN'T SHE JUST STAY HERE FOREVER WITH US!?
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE HER SIDE!?
SUMIO...
PLEASE UNDER-STAND...

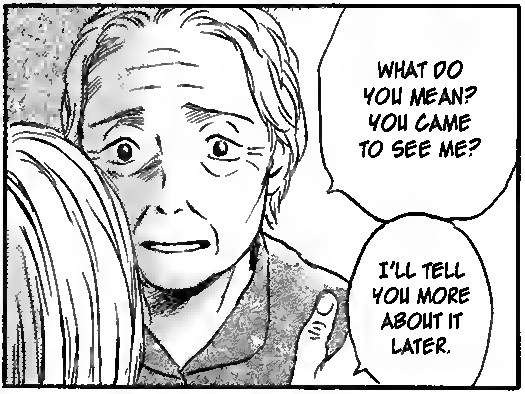

AH,
THE RAIN STOPPED.

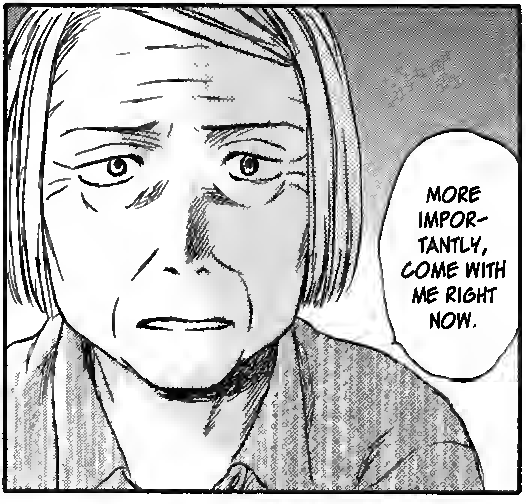

WHAT A CRUEL SIGHT...
YES...
IS THAT REALLY YOU, KIYO?
K...
KIYO?
HARU!
IT REALLY IS YOU!

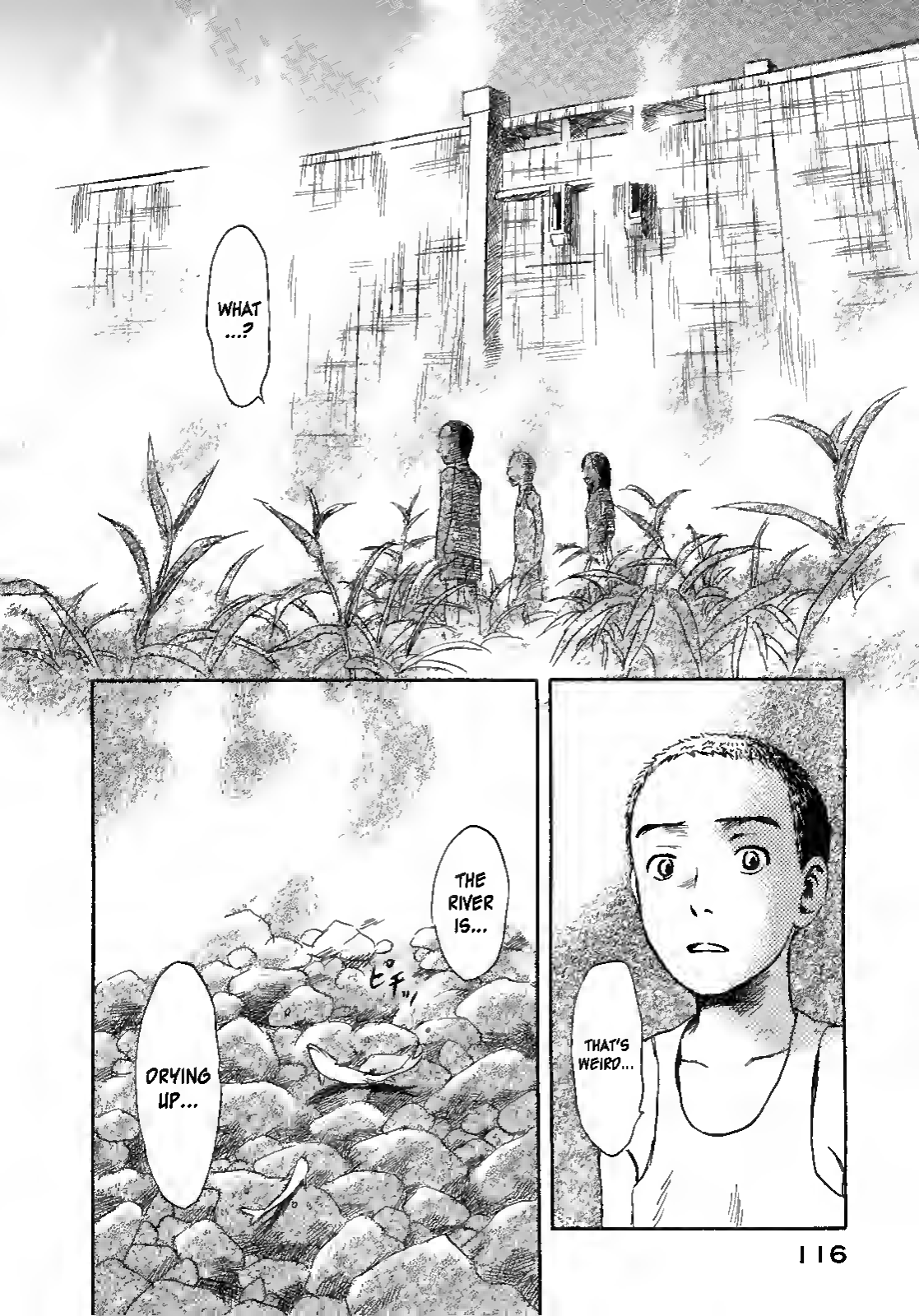


IS HOSPITALIZED NEAR MY HOME.








WHAT ...?
THE RIVER IS...
ピチ"!
DRYING UP...
THAT'S WEIRD...

DRYING UP AS WELL...!
EVERY-THING IS...
WHA...
EVEN YOU, DAD...!
SUMIO...
AND CHINAMI, TOO...!

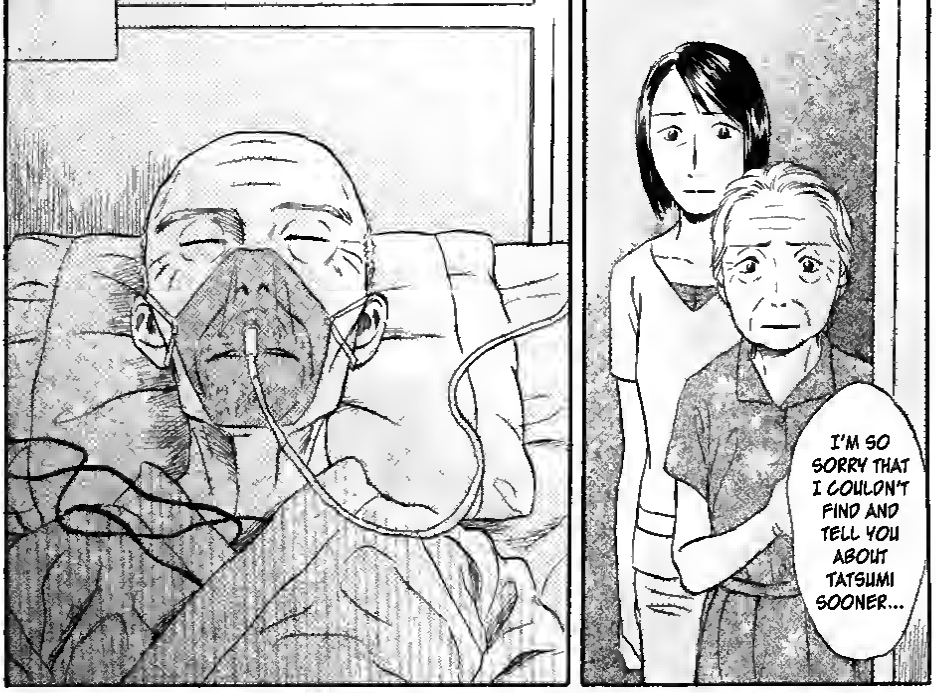
I'M SCARED!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
DON'T DISAP-PEAR ON ME!

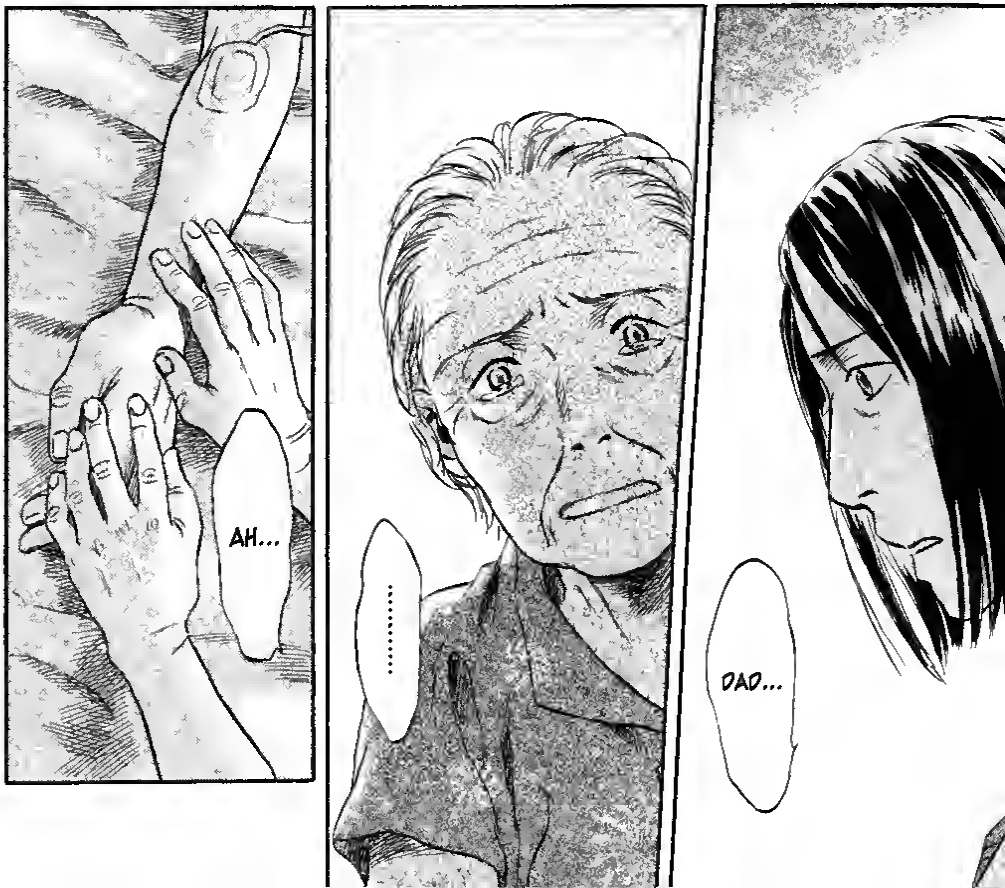
Chapter 09
End

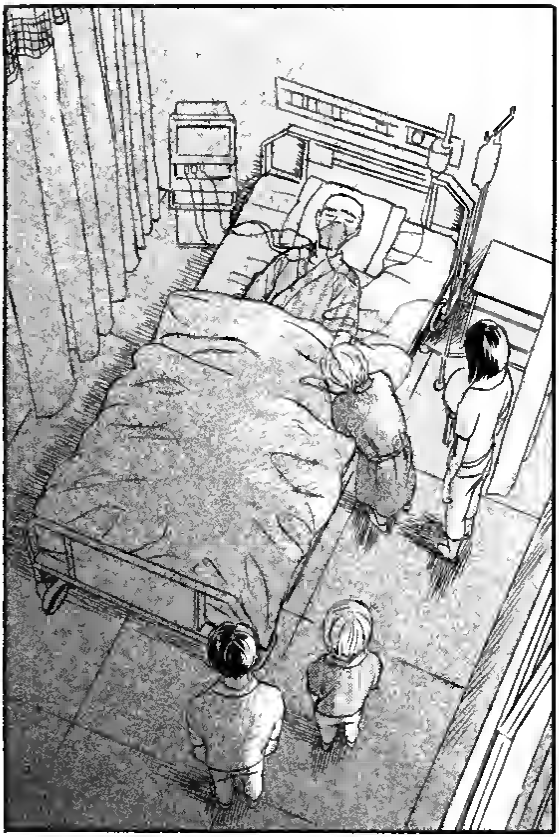
Chapter 10
Underwater
Stream

OH, SO YOU'RE MIYA-ZAWA'S...
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING CARE OF MY HUSBAND...
YOU CAME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME.
BUT LAST YEAR, HE HAD TO GO WORK TEMPORARILY AT ANOTHER HOSPITAL IN SOME OTHER PREFECTURE.
MY SON TOORU WORKS AT THIS HOSPITAL,

AND WHILE THERE, HE STUMBLED UPON YOUR HUSBAND.
HE WAS REPORTEDLY LYING COLLAPSED AT SOME CONSTRUCTION WORKSITE ON A VERY HOT DAY.
BUT AFTER HE WAS CARRIED OFF TO THE HOSPITAL, NOBODY COULD IDENTIFY WHO THE OLD MAN WAS.
AND SO, FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS,
HE'S BEEN JUST LYING HERE UNCONSCIOUS AT THIS HOSPITAL.
...I TRIED TO CONTACT YOU AS SOON AS I REALIZED WHO HE WAS,
BUT EVER SINCE I LEFT OUR OLD VILLAGE, ALL THE OTHER VILLAGERS HAVEN'T BEEN SO FRIENDLY TO ME.
NOT ONLY THAT, IT SEEMS ALL THE VILLAGERS LOST CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER SO THEY HAD NO IDEA WHERE YOU MOVED TO.
I JUST DIDN'T QUITE KNOW HOW TO FIND YOU AGAIN...

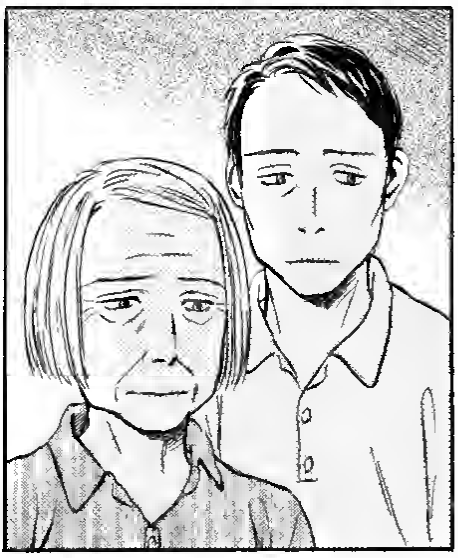

I'M SO SORRY THAT I COULDN'T FIND AND TELL YOU ABOUT TATSUMI SOONER...


AH...
.....
DAD...

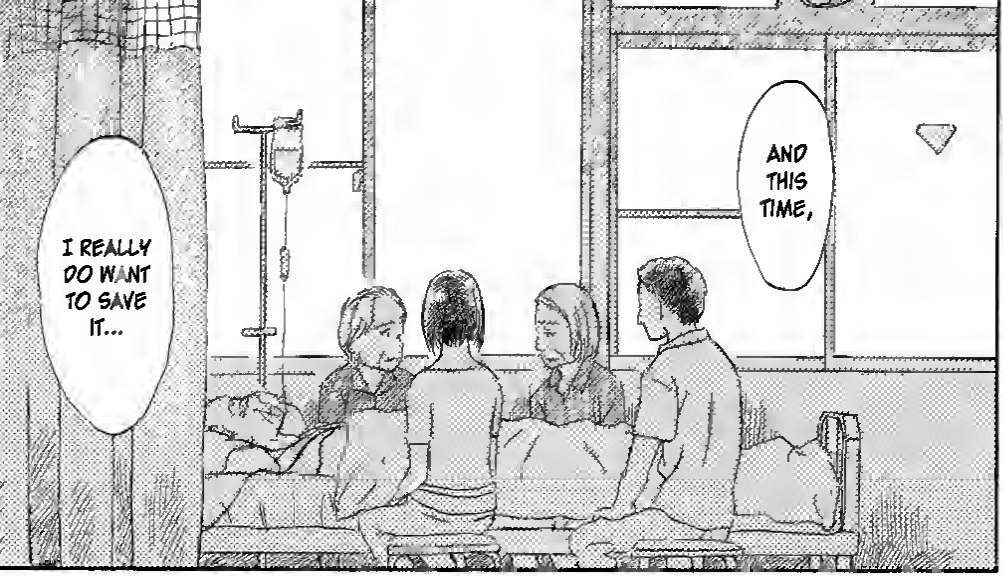


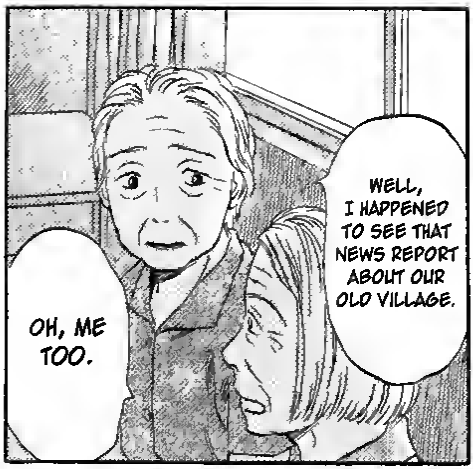
TATSU-
MI...

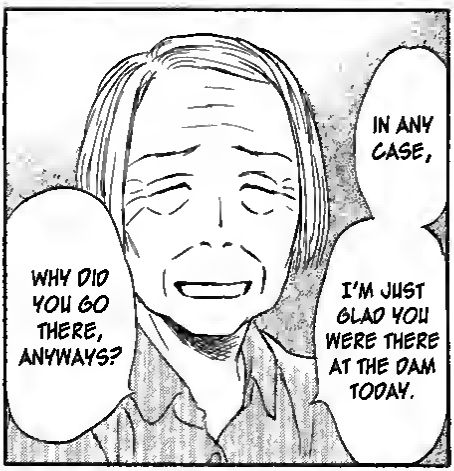
SORRY, HARU...
I PROMISE I'LL PAY YOU BACK FOR THIS.
SORRY FOR TROUBLING YOU SO MUCH LIKE THIS...



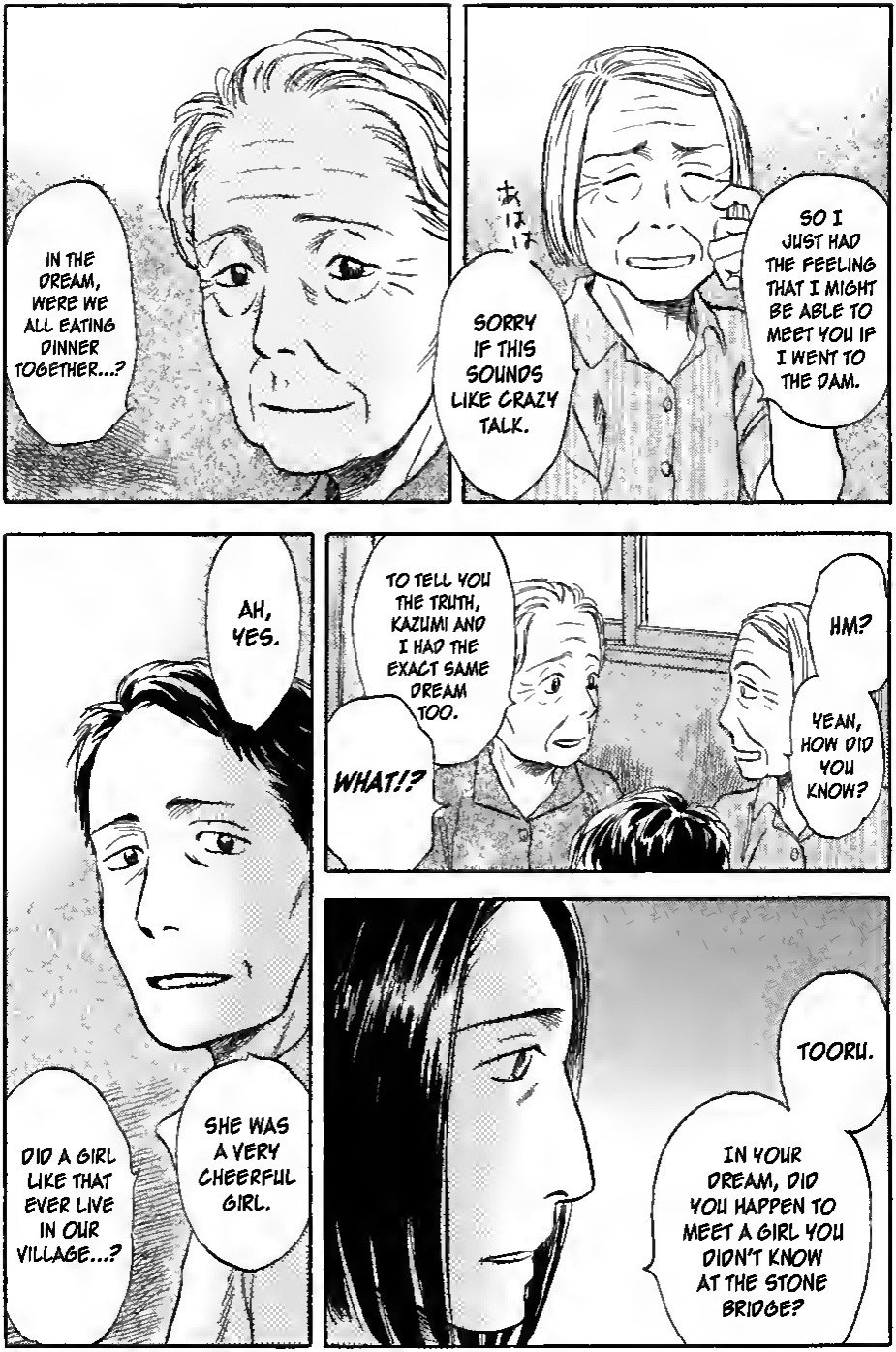
B-
BUT,
I EVEN CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR TOORU...
.....
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE DAM, I'D NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEND TOORU TO MEDICAL SCHOOL.
STOP IT.
YOU KNOW YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
...I KNOW
THAT DOING THIS WON'T ABSOLVE MY CRIMES OR ANY-THING,
IN A WAY, TATSUMI IS ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING TRACES OF OUR OLD VILLAGE.
BUT...


I REALLY DO WANT TO SAVE IT...
AND THIS TIME,


OH, ME TOO.
WELL, I HAPPENED TO SEE THAT NEWS REPORT ABOUT OUR OLD VILLAGE.


WHY DID YOU GO THERE, ANYWAYS?
IN ANY CASE,
I'M JUST GLAD YOU WERE THERE AT THE DAM TODAY.

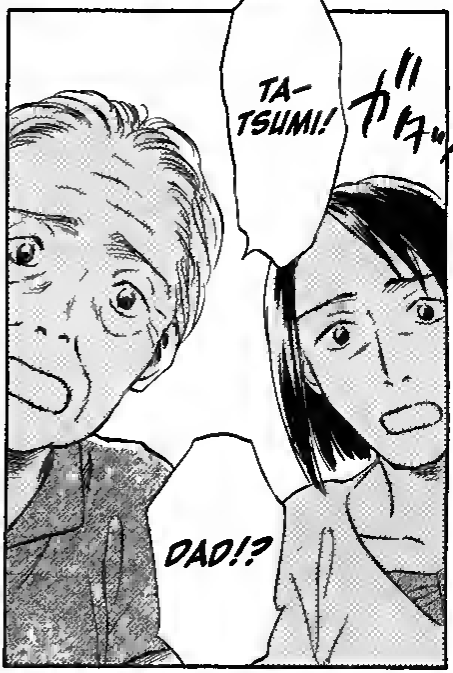
IT WAS ABOUT ALL OF US GOING BACK TO OUR OLD VILLAGE.
TOORU SAID HE EVEN HAD THE EXACT SAME DREAM.
ACTUALLY, I ENDED UP HAVING THIS OOO DREAM AFTER SEEING THAT NEWS REPORT.


IN THE DREAM, WERE WE ALL EATING DINNER TOGETHER...?
あはは
SORRY IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE CRAZY TALK.
SO I JUST HAD THE FEELING THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MEET YOU IF I WENT TO THE DAM.
AH, YES.
SHE WAS A VERY CHEERFUL GIRL.
DID A GIRL LIKE THAT EVER LIVE IN OUR VILLAGE...?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, KAZUMI AND I HAD THE EXACT SAME DREAM TOO.
WHAT!?
HM?
YEAH, HOW DID YOU KNOW?
TOORU.
IN YOUR DREAM, DID YOU HAPPEN TO MEET A GIRL YOU DIDN'T KNOW AT THE STONE BRIDGE?

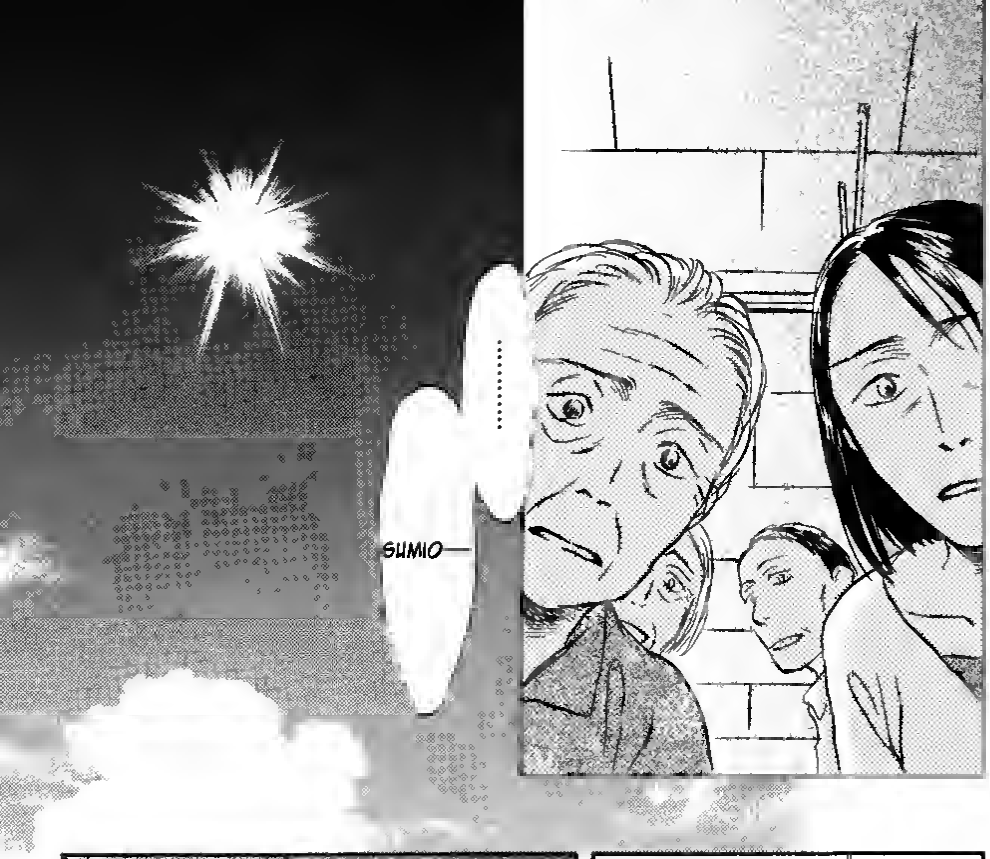
NO WONDER.
SHE'S SUCH A NICE GIRL THEN.
OH...
THAT'S... ACTUALLY MY DAUGHTER.
WHA—!?
TO THINK THAT ALL OF US WOULD HAVE THE EXACT SAME DREAM...
WHAT COULD THIS ALL MEAN?
HOW STRANGE...

SUMIO
...

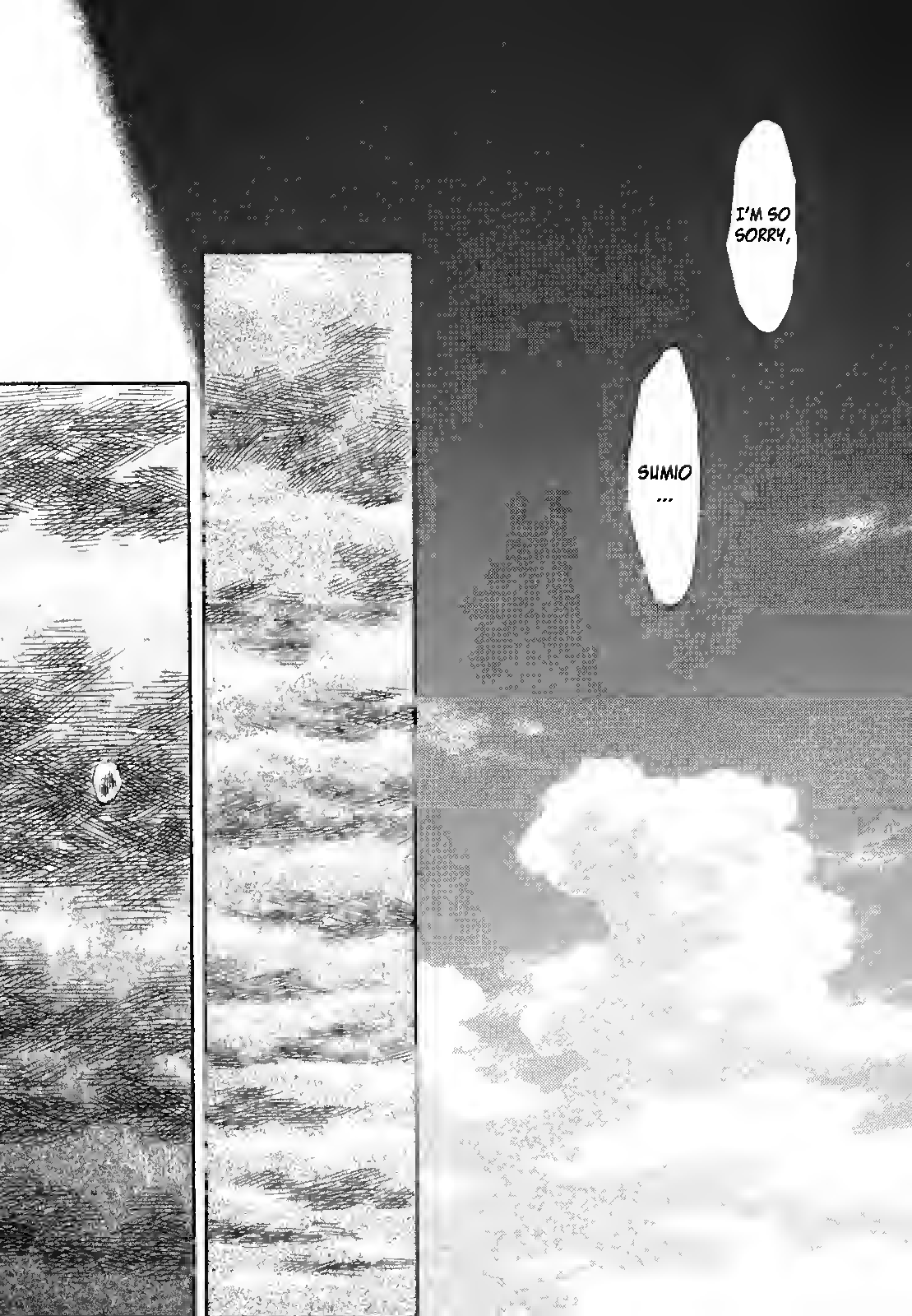
TA-
TSUMI!

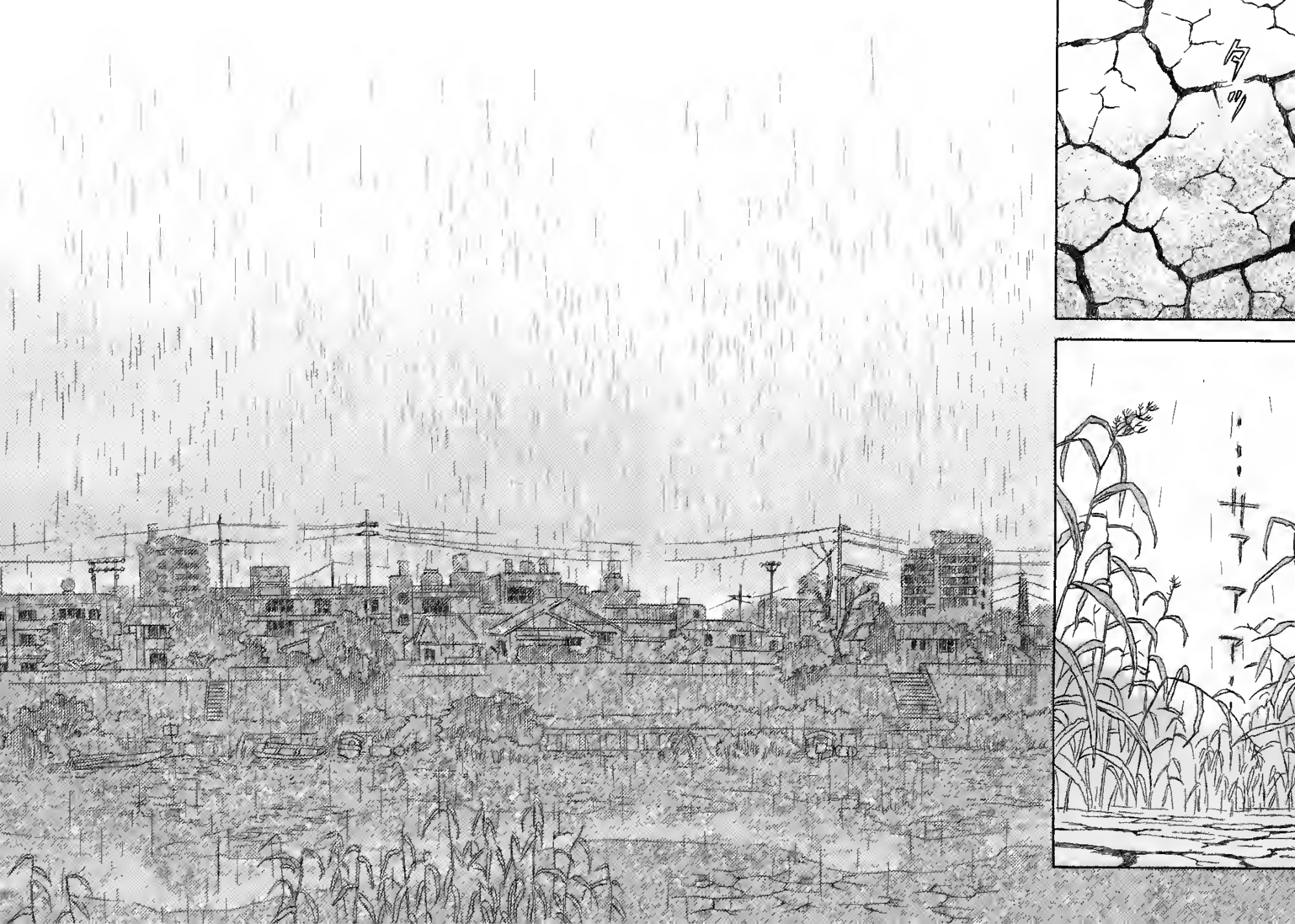

TA-
TSUMI!
!!
DAD!?

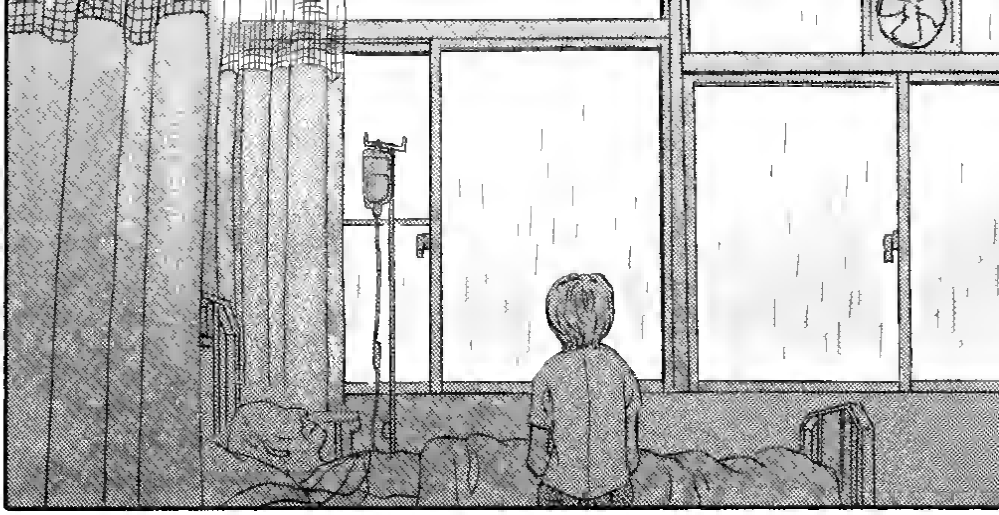
.....


.....
SUMIO—

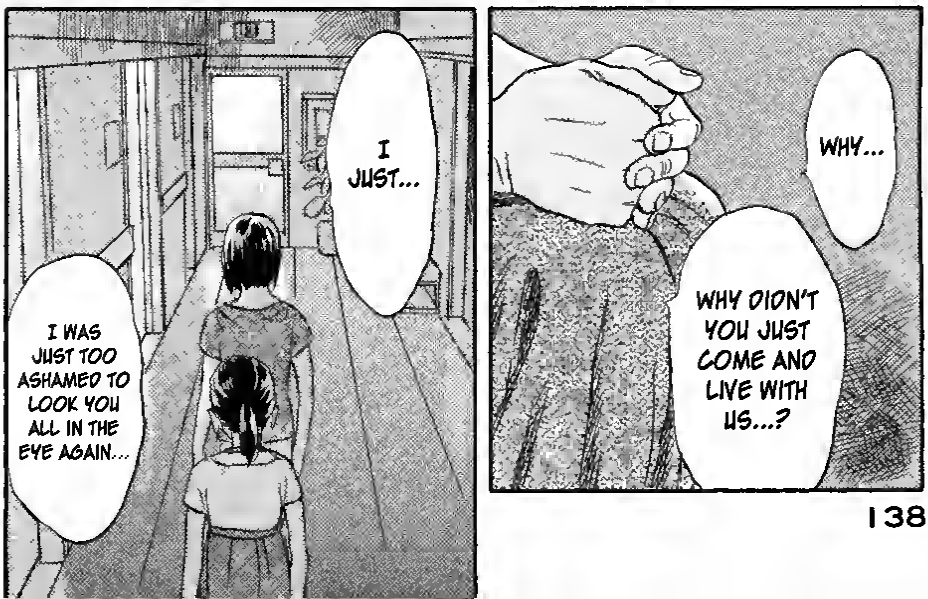
CHINAMI!
THANK GOD!
YOU'RE AWAKE!
SORRY...

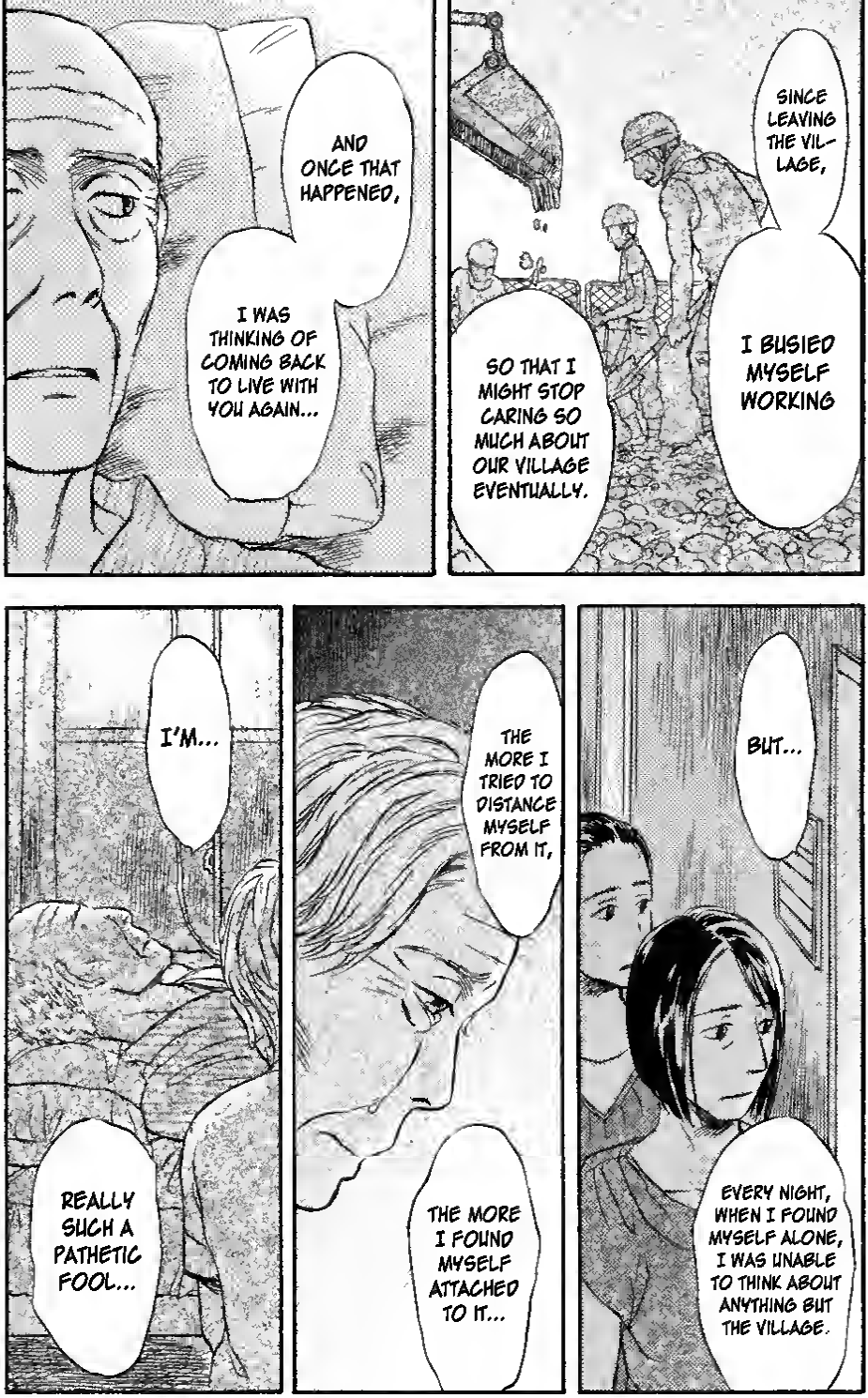

I'M SO SORRY,
...
SUMIO
...



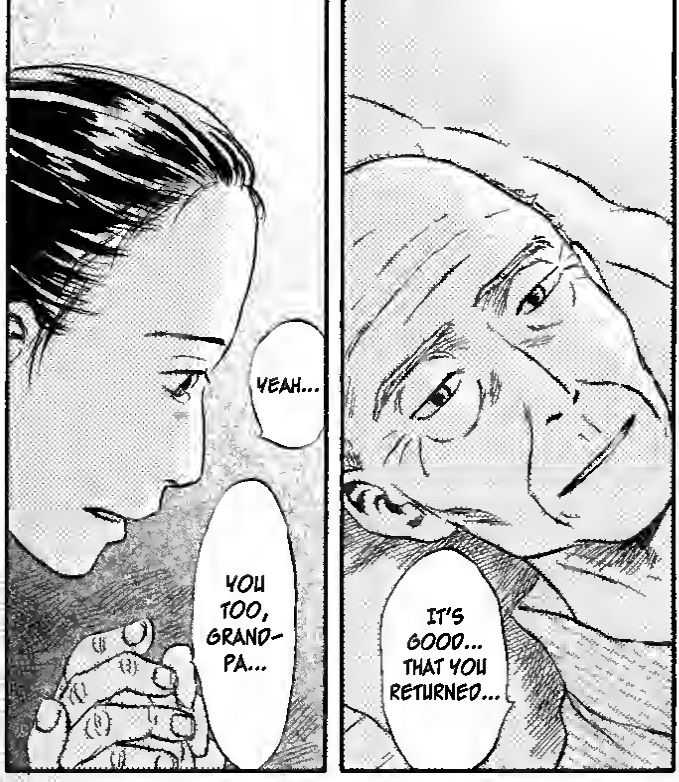


SORRY...

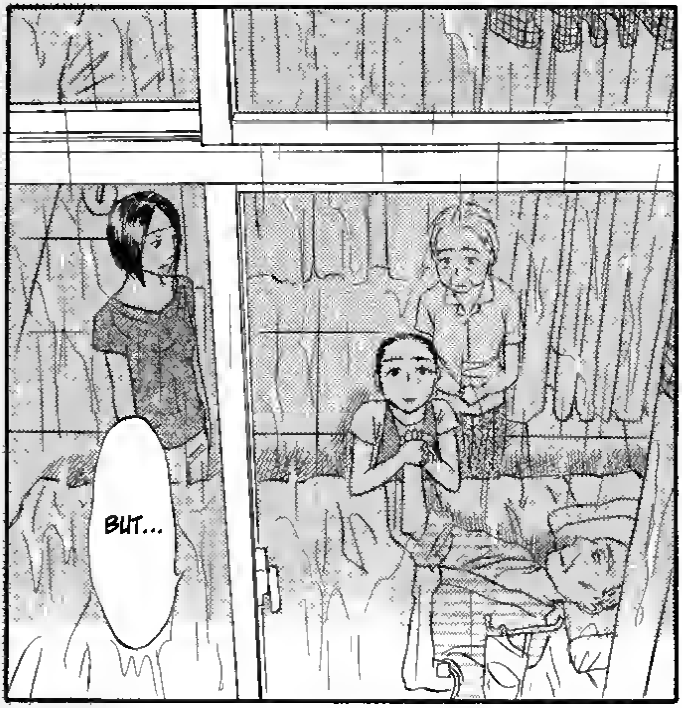

I JUST...
I WAS JUST TOO ASHAMED TO LOOK YOU ALL IN THE EYE AGAIN...
WHY...
WHY DION'T YOU JUST COME AND LIVE WITH US...?


AND ONCE THAT HAPPENED,
I WAS THINKING OF COMING BACK TO LIVE WITH YOU AGAIN...
SINCE LEAVING THE VILLAGE,
I BUSIED MYSELF WORKING
SO THAT I MIGHT STOP CARING SO MUCH ABOUT OUR VILLAGE EVENTUALLY.
I'M...
REALLY SUCH A PATHETIC FOOL...
THE MORE I TRIED TO DISTANCE MYSELF FROM IT,
THE MORE I FOUND MYSELF ATTACHED TO IT...
BUT...
EVERY NIGHT, WHEN I FOUND MYSELF ALONE, I WAS UNABLE TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT THE VILLAGE.

CHI-
NAMI,
THIS
IS YOUR
GRAND-
PA.
GRAND-
MA.
YEAH,
SORRY FOR
CAUSING
YOU ALL
SO MUCH
WORRY.
CHI-
NAMI,
ARE YOU
FEELING
ALRIGHT
NOW?
GRAND-
PA...

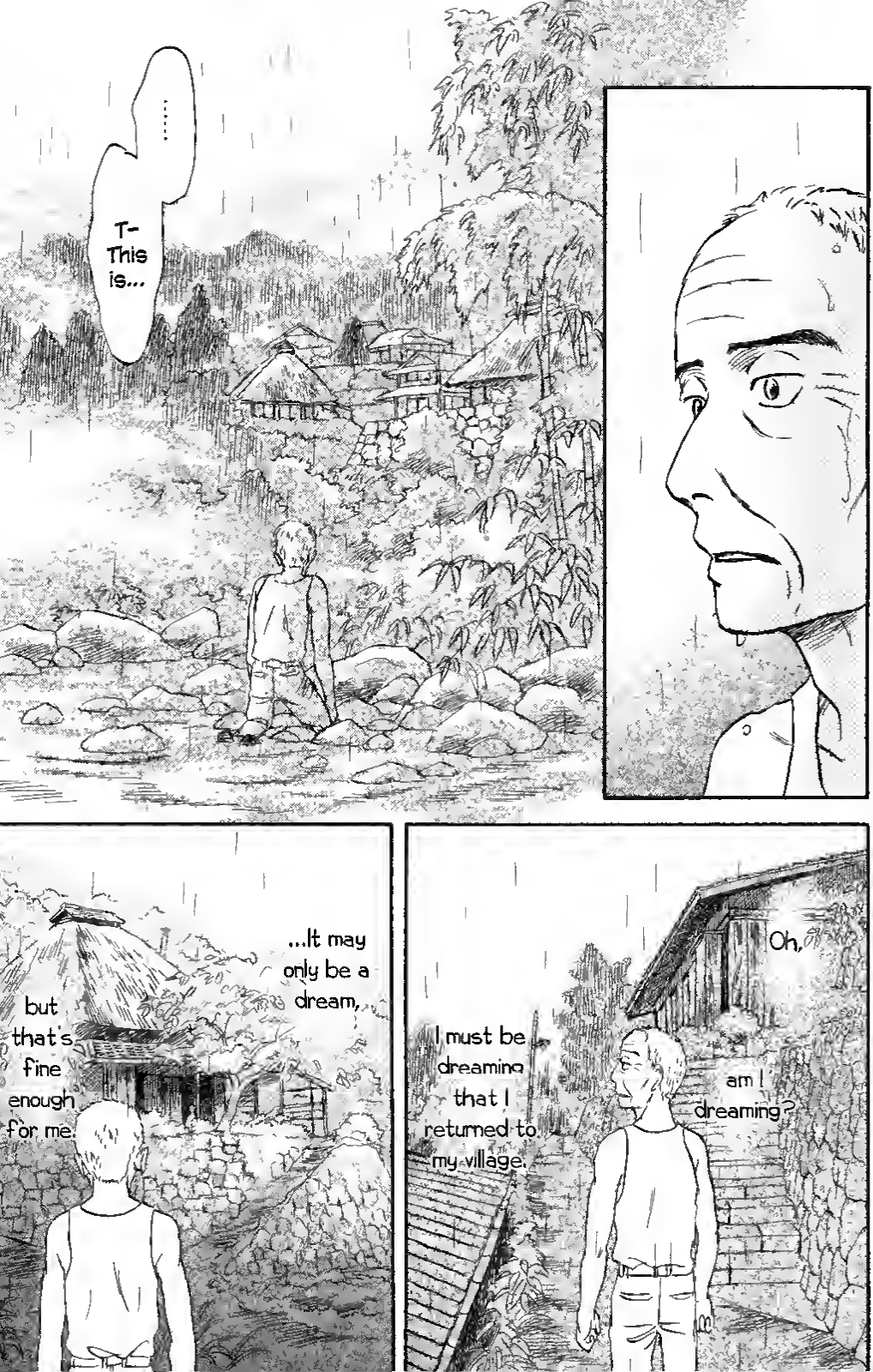


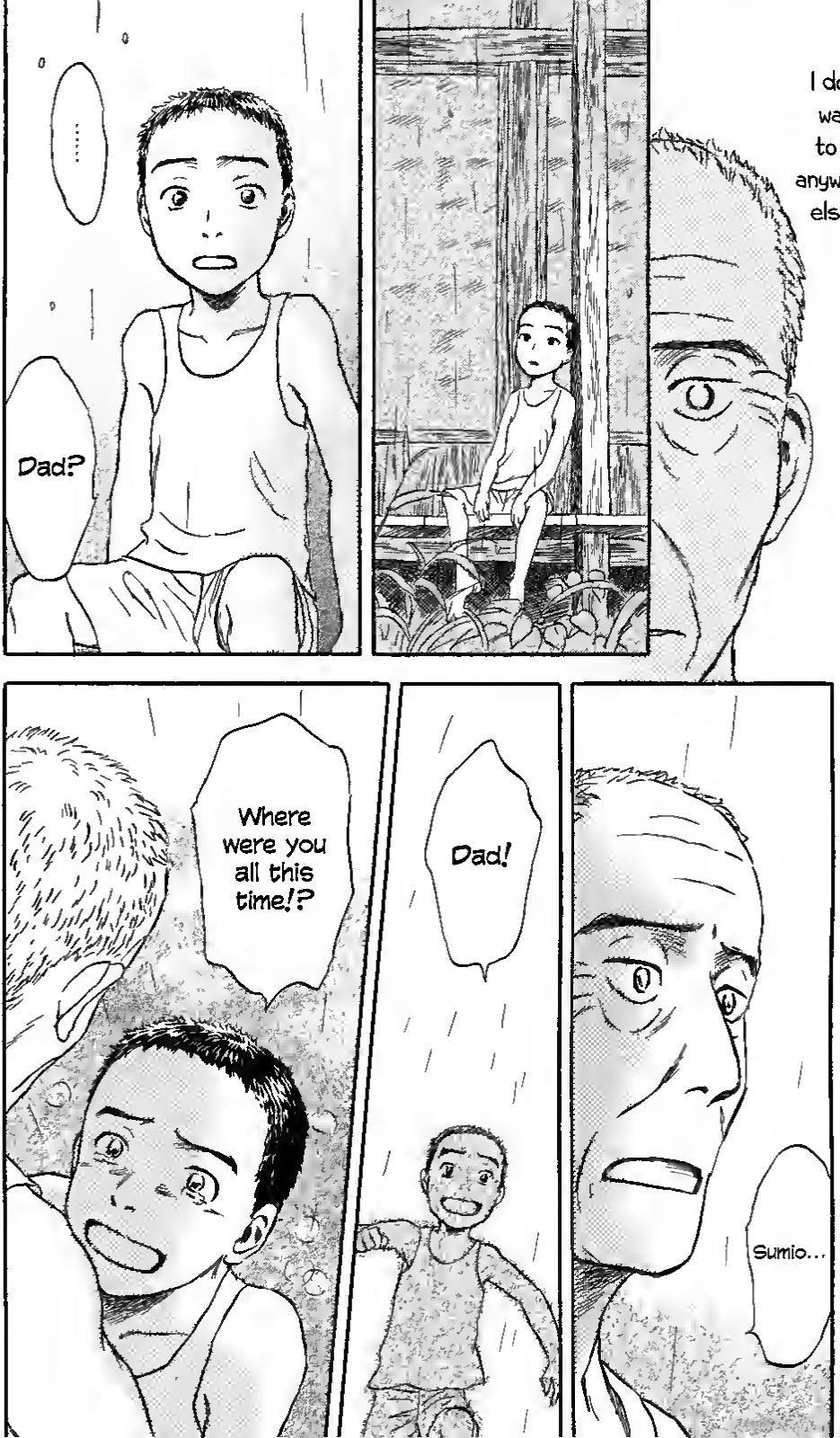
I WONDER

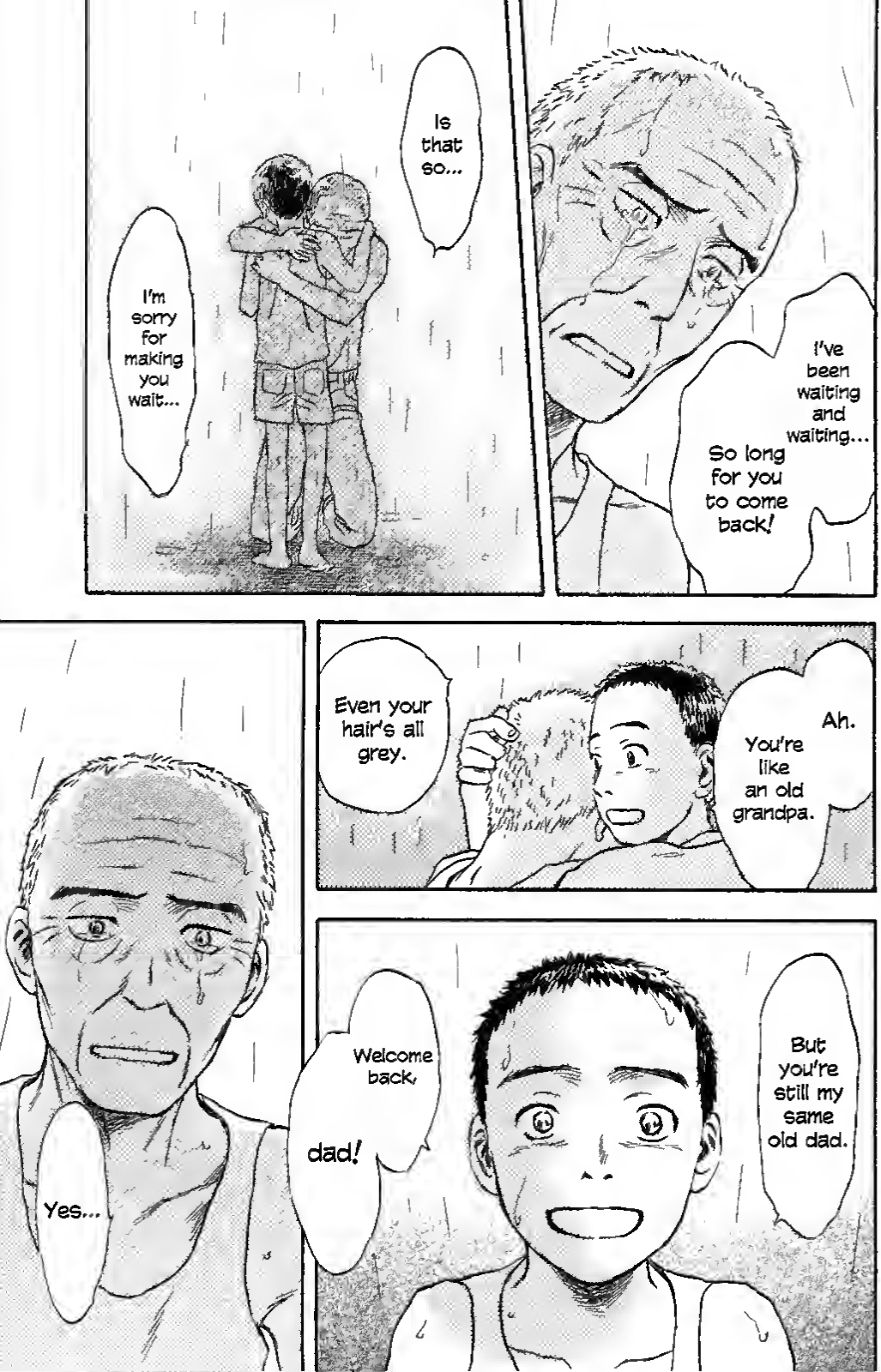


WHAT BECAME OF SUMIO...?

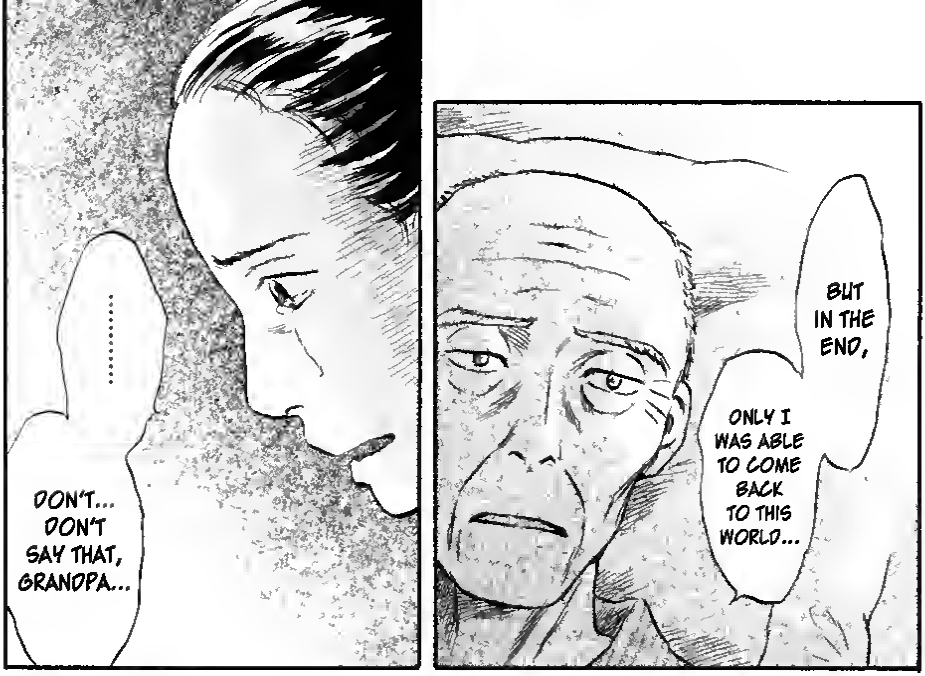
EVEN THOUGH
THAT POOR BOY...
PERHAPS ...
HE DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH THAT VILLAGE...
HAS BEEN WAITING SO LONG
FOR ALL OF US TO COME BACK...


T-
This
is...
Oh,
am I
dreaming?
I must be
dreaming
that I
returned to
my village.
...It may
only be a
dream,
but
that's
fine
enough
for me.

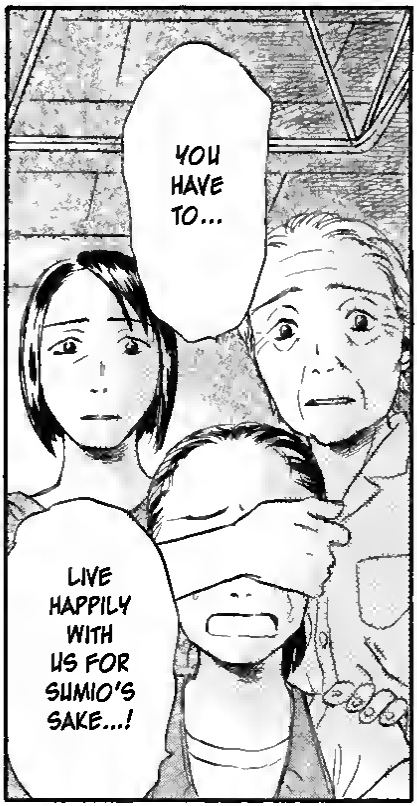

.....
Dad?
I don't want to go anywhere else...
Where were you all this time!?
Dad!
Sumio...


I've been waiting and waiting... So long for you to come back!
Is that so...
I'm sorry for making you wait...
Ah. You're like an old grandpa.
Even your hair's all grey.
But you're still my same old dad.
Welcome back, dad!
Yes...

I'm home...
SEEING HOW SUMIO WAS WITH ME, I THOUGHT THAT I WAS ALREADY DEAD.
AND SO, I THOUGHT I COULD LIVE FOREVER WITH SUMIO FROM THEREON...
I LIVED TOGETHER WITH SUMIO IN THAT VILLAGE...
EVER SINCE THEN,


.....
DON'T... DON'T SAY THAT, GRANDPA...
BUT IN THE END,
ONLY I WAS ABLE TO COME BACK TO THIS WORLD...

I'M AFRAID I'M...
.....
NO,


YOU HAVE TO...
LIVE HAPPILY WITH US FOR SUMIO'S SAKE...!

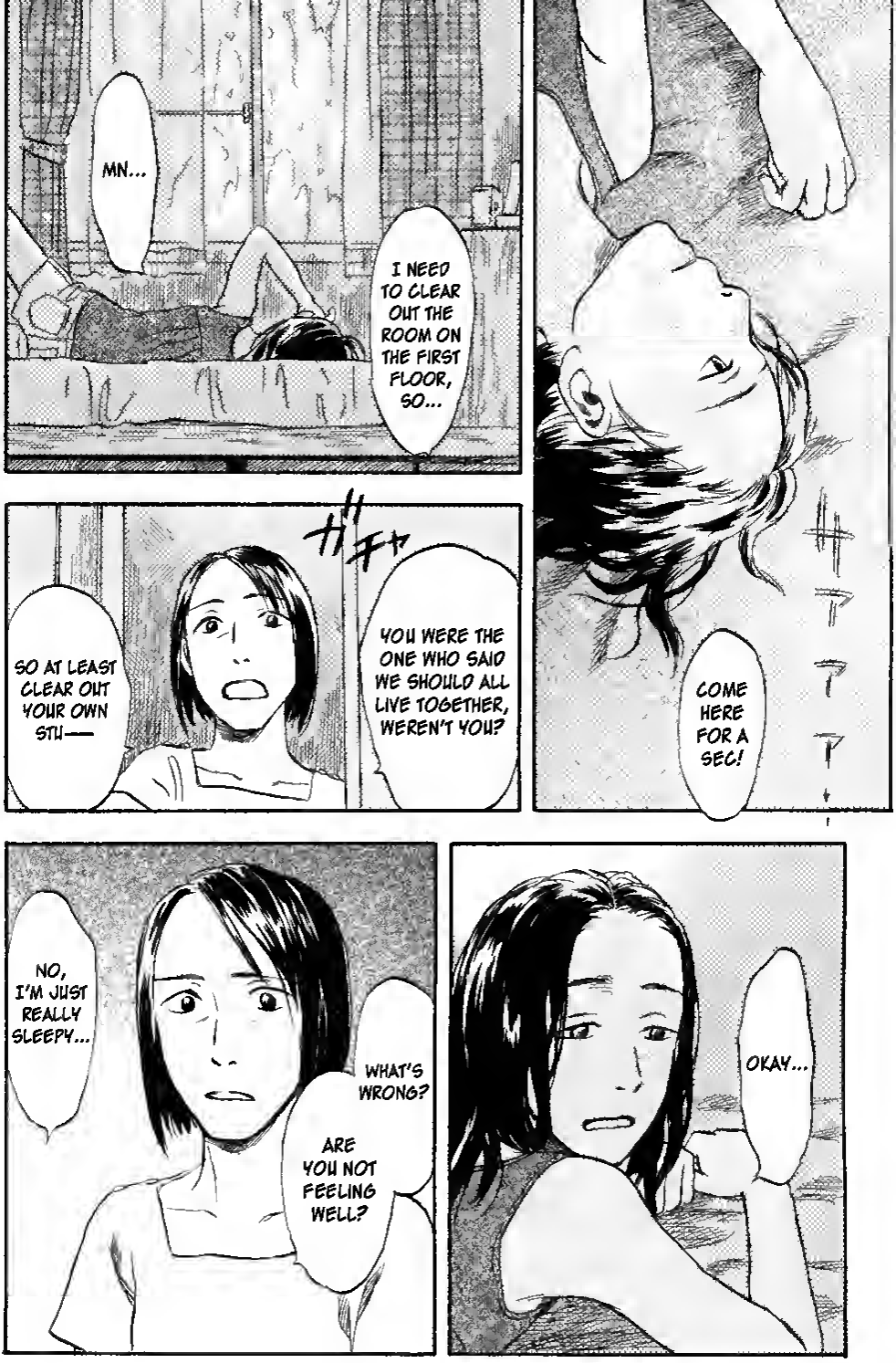
JUST LIKE BEFORE...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
LET'S... LIVE AND EAT TOGETHER

PLEASE DAD,
DON'T MAKE US WORRY ANYMORE.
THAT'S RIGHT,
TATSU-MI...

WELL,
GRAND-PA?

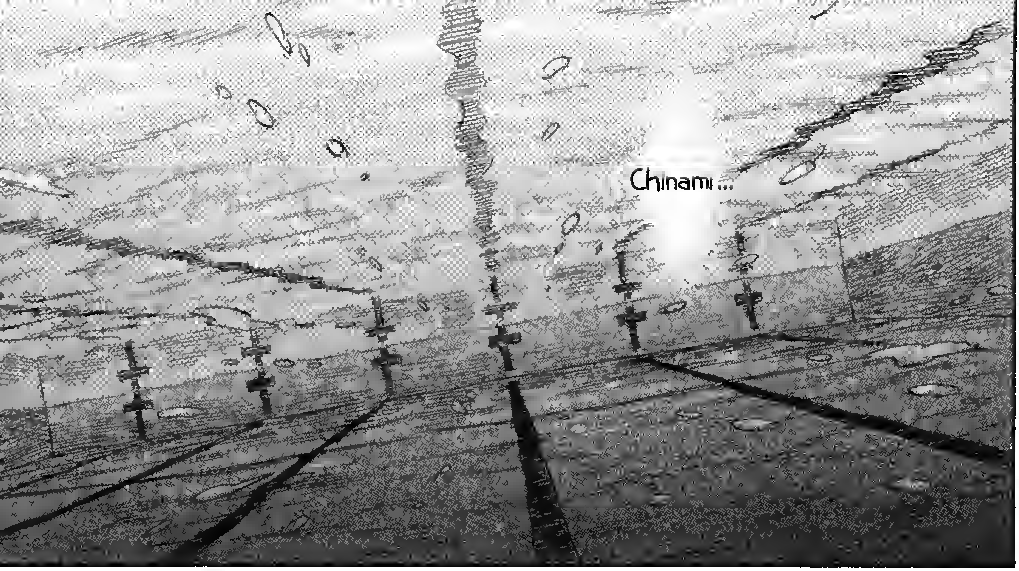
TTTTTT

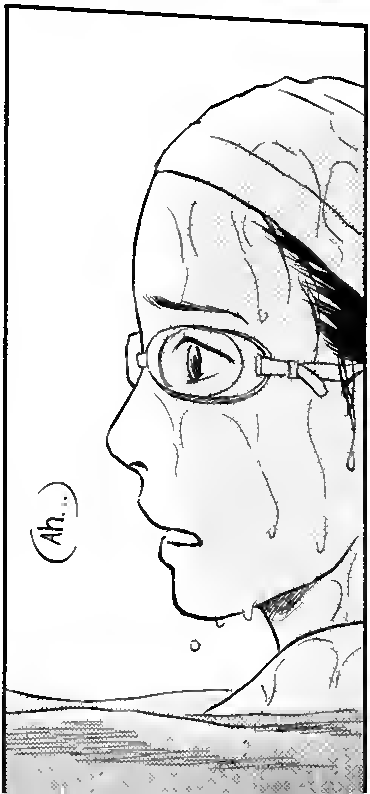
AFTER MANY MANY DAYS OF THE HOT SCORCHING SUN,
THE RAIN THAT STARTED POURING DOWN LAST WEEK
IS CONTINUING TO POUR DOWN ENDLESSLY THIS WEEK AS WELL.
WOW... IT'S RAINING SO MUCH...
THE WEATHER DURING THIS SEASON REALLY HAS NO CLUE ON THE CONCEPT OF MODERATION.
DARN, I WANTED TO DRY THE FUTON...
CHINAMI!


MN...
I NEED TO CLEAR OUT THE ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR, SO...
ガチャ
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD ALL LIVE TOGETHER, WEREN'T YOU?
SO AT LEAST CLEAR OUT YOUR OWN STU——
ナアアアア
COME HERE FOR A SEC!
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
NO, I'M JUST REALLY SLEEPY...
OKAY...

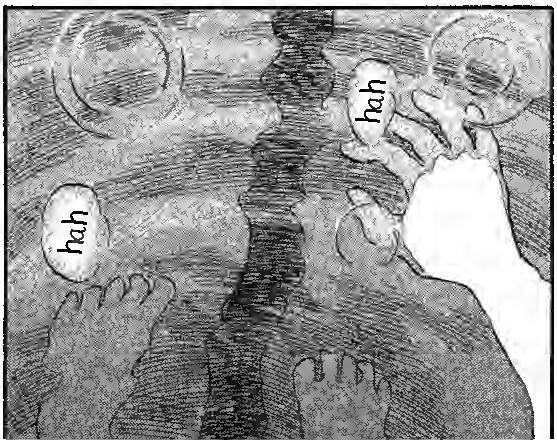
FINE, THEN JUST GO TO BED FOR TODAY.
.....
HEY!
OH, HEY! IT'S BEEN SO LONG!

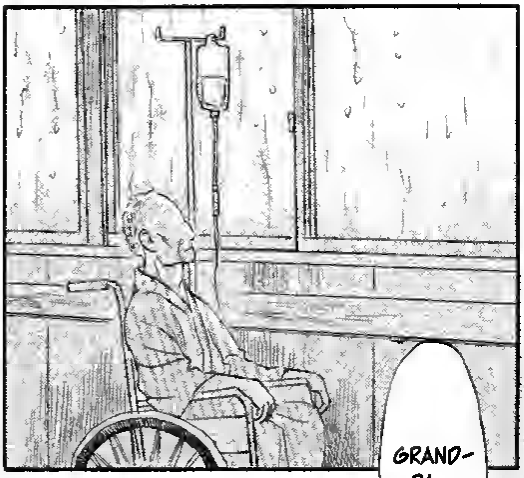
キャー
あはは
ヒタ
ヒタ

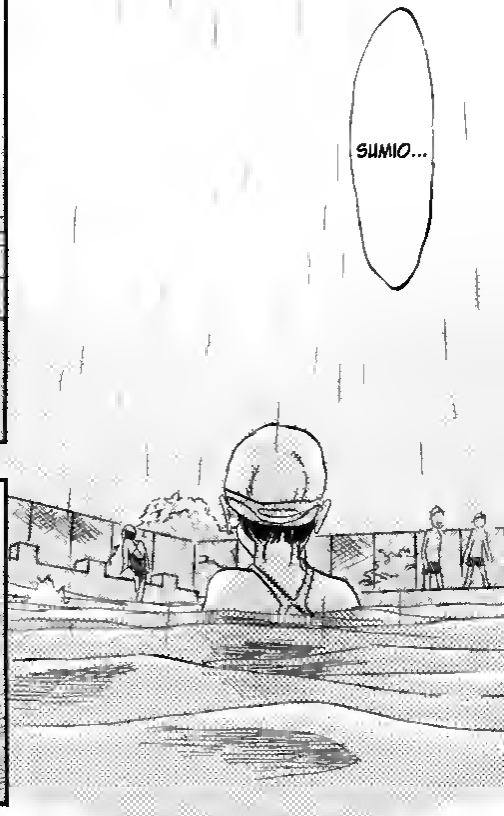

Chinami...

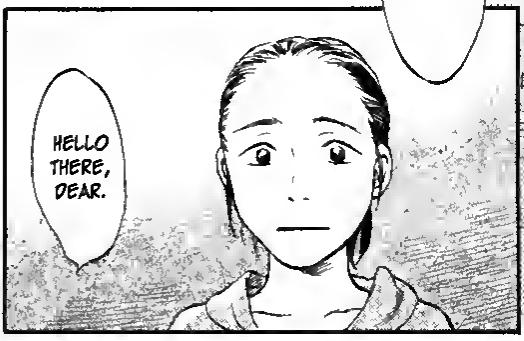

(Ah...)

ハァ


hah
hah




SUMIO...


GRAND-PA...
HELLO THERE, DEAR.

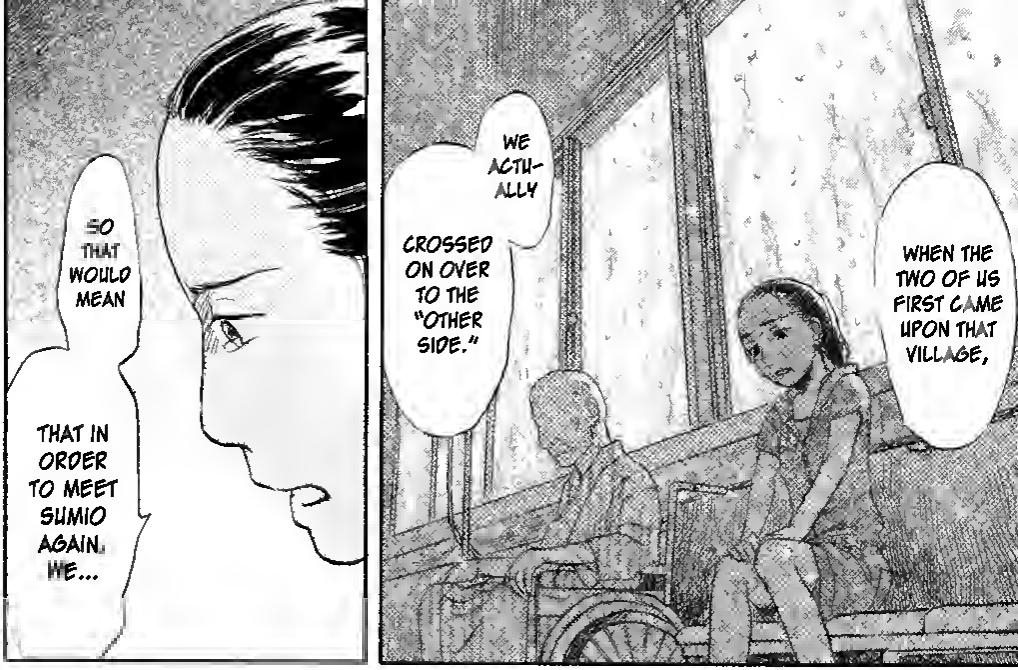
IT'S THE SAME FOR ME AS WELL.

I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO DREAM ABOUT THE VILLAGE ANYMORE.
...EVER SINCE I WOKE UP,

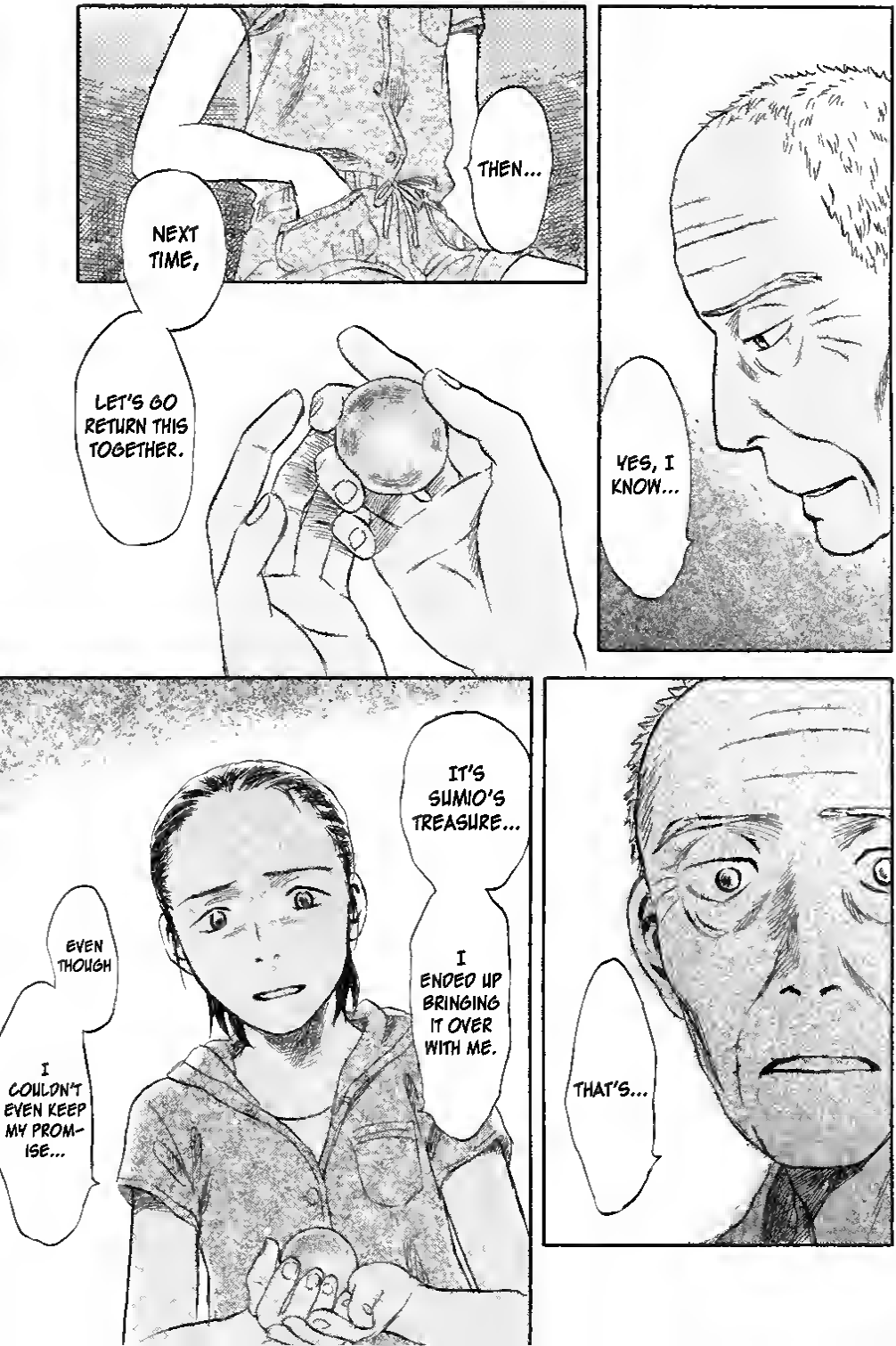
BUT YOU KNOW,
I JUST HAVE THIS FEELING THAT
SUMIO'S STILL OUT THERE, CALLING FOR US...
YEAH...
I'M SURE HE'S CRYING TOO...
WE HAVE TO SEE HIM AGAIN NO MATTER WHAT...

BUT,
I'VE BEEN THINK-ING...
WHY IS IT THAT ONLY THE TWO OF US COULD STAY IN THAT VILLAGE FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME?

MAYBE
IT'S BECAUSE...


WHEN THE TWO OF US FIRST CAME UPON THAT VILLAGE,
WE ACTU-ALLY CROSSED ON OVER TO THE "OTHER SIDE."
SO THAT WOULD MEAN
THAT IN ORDER TO MEET SUMIO AGAIN, WE...

STOP IT.
STOP THINKING ABOUT SUCH THOUGHTS.
BUT THEN YOU CAN'T THINK ABOUT IT EITHER, OKAY?
.....
OKAY...

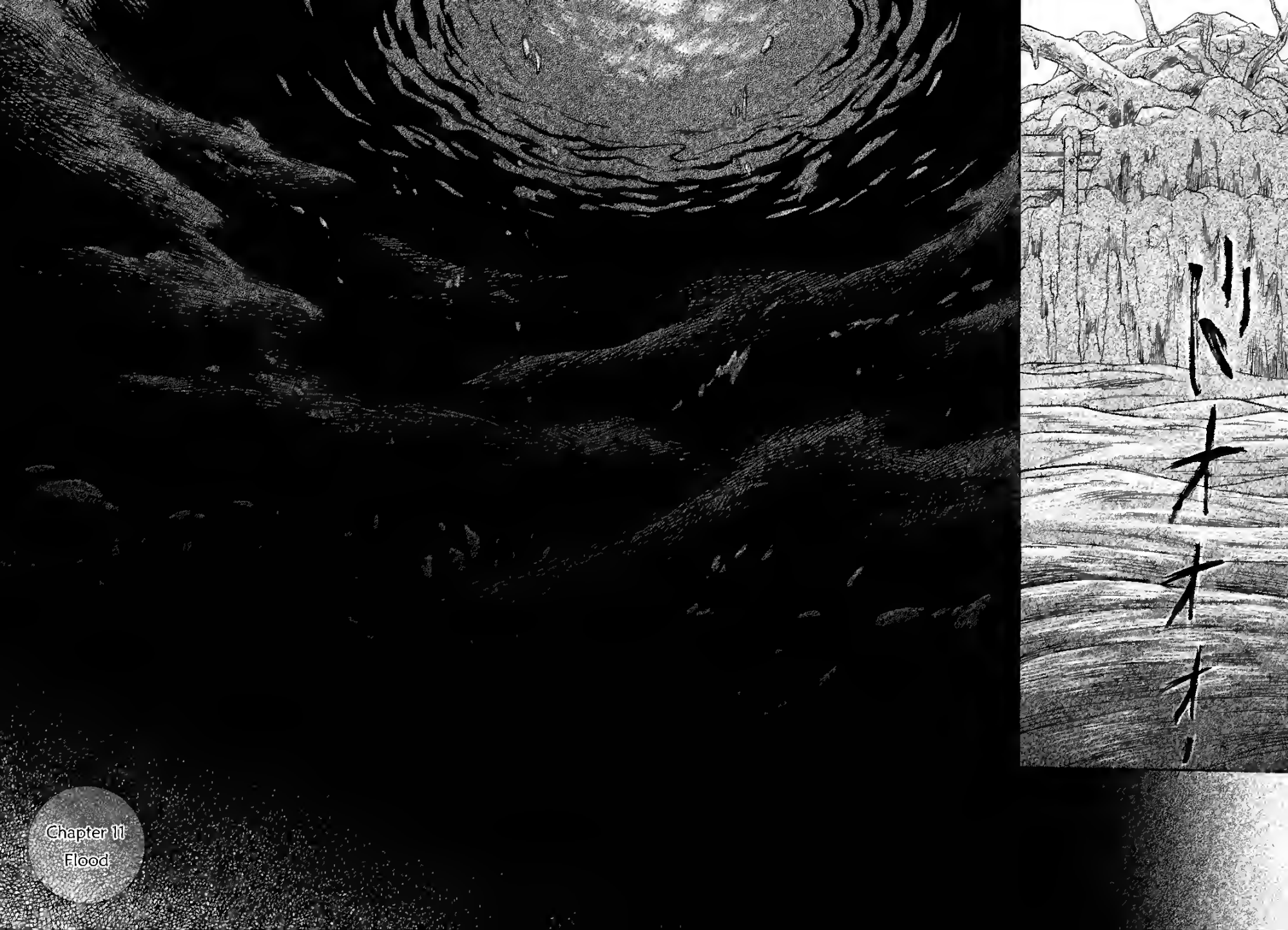

THEN...
NEXT TIME,
LET'S GO RETURN THIS TOGETHER.
YES, I KNOW...
IT'S SUMIO'S TREASURE...
I ENDED UP BRINGING IT OVER WITH ME.
EVEN THOUGH
I COULDN'T EVEN KEEP MY PROM-ISE...
THAT'S...

THAT'S WHY
THE LEAST I CAN DO
IS GO RETURN IT BACK TO HIM...
THE UPSTREAM LOOKS TO BE QUITE DANGEROUS.
LET'S JUST GO BACK FOR TODAY.
HMM,
LOOKS LIKE THE WATER LEVEL'S RISEN PRETTY HIGH ALREADY.
ドドドド

OKAY...
LET'S COME AGAIN AT ANOTHER TIME, OKAY, CHINAMI?
MN...
AH.
OH NO,
THE ROAD AHEAD IS ALL FLOODED...?
I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK.
ガチャ

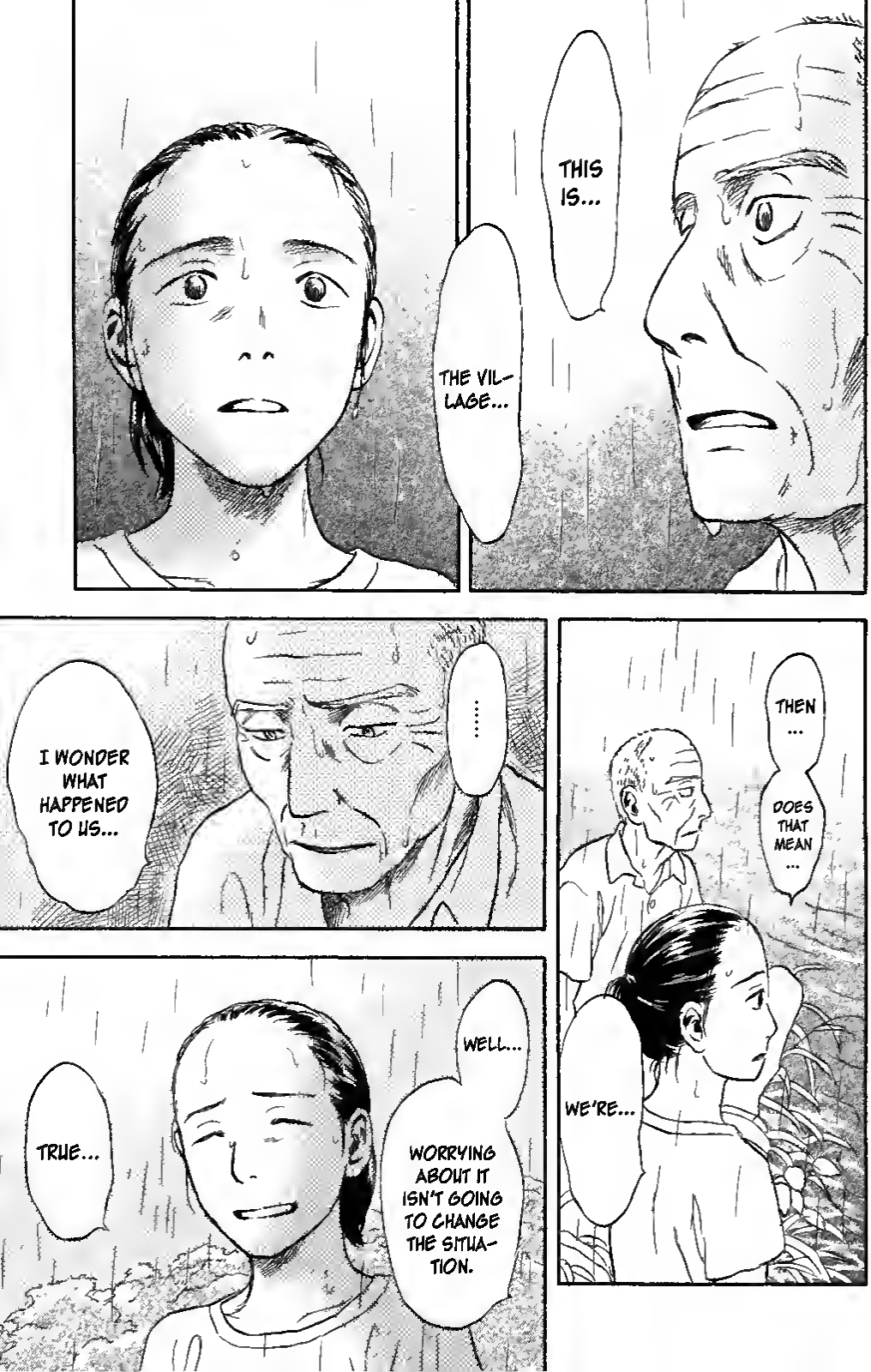
NO!
カラ…
カラ〃
COME BACK, CHINAMI!

Chapter 10
End



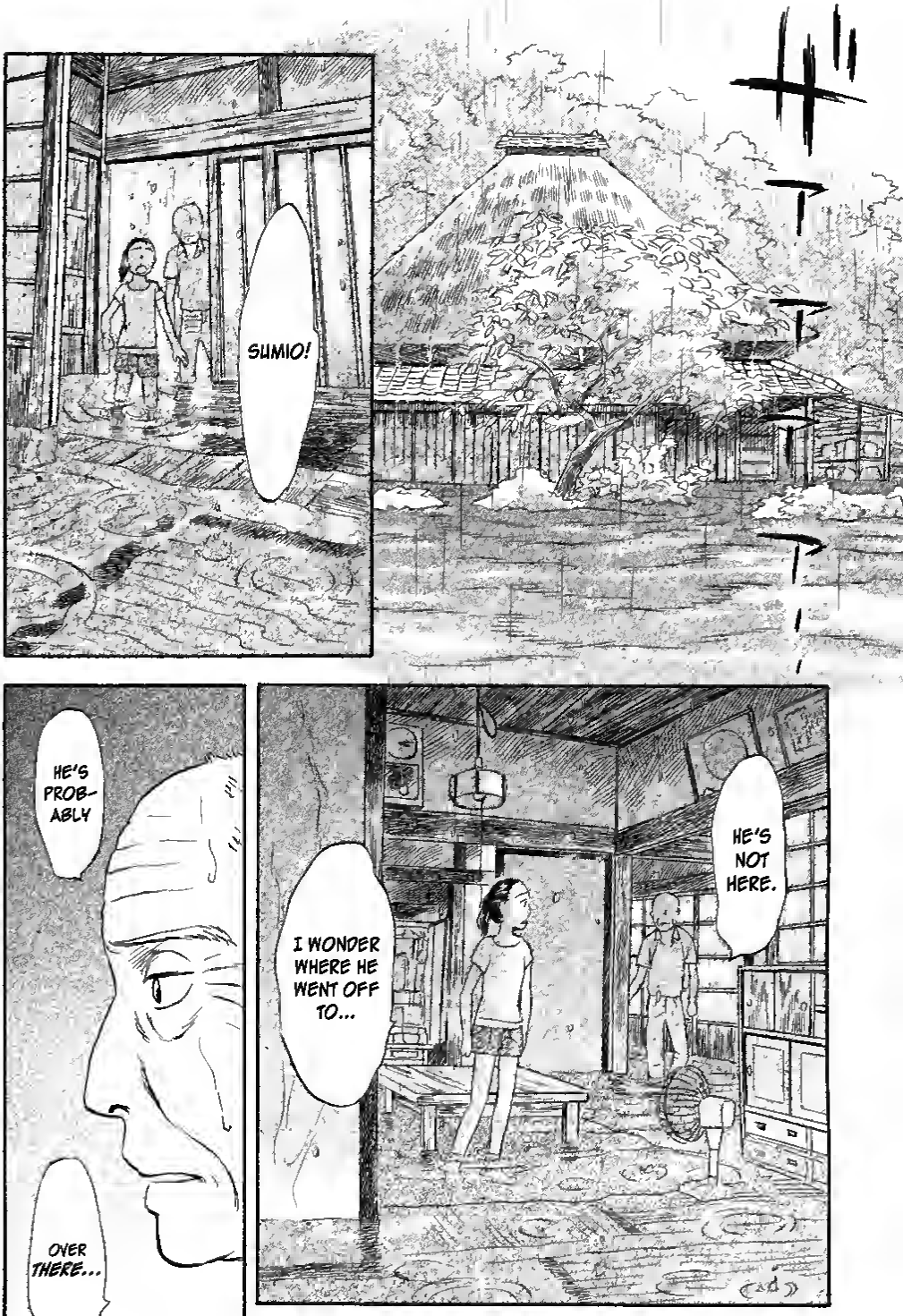
Chapter 11
Flood

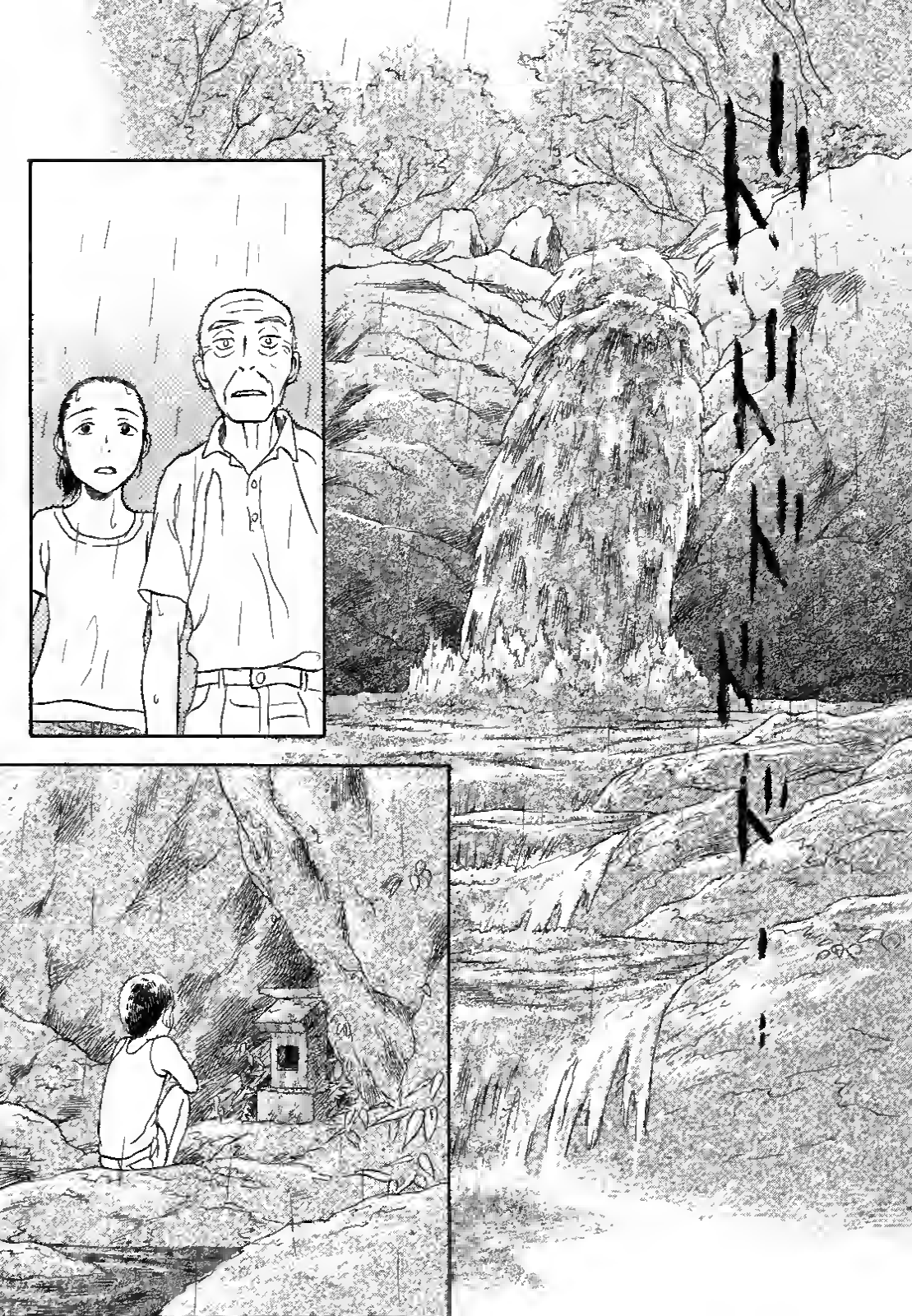
ザアアアア
GRANDPA...!
CHINAMI...


THIS IS...
THE VIL-LAGE...
.....
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO US...
THEN ...
DOES THAT MEAN ...
WE'RE...
WELL...
WORRYING ABOUT IT ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE THE SITUA-TION.
TRUE...

IF WE DON'T HURRY UP AND GO FIND SUMIO...
BUT... WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO THIS PLACE...?

THE VILLAGE IS...
SINKING DEEPER AND DEEPER...
THIS RAIN...
IT'S MUDDY WATER...

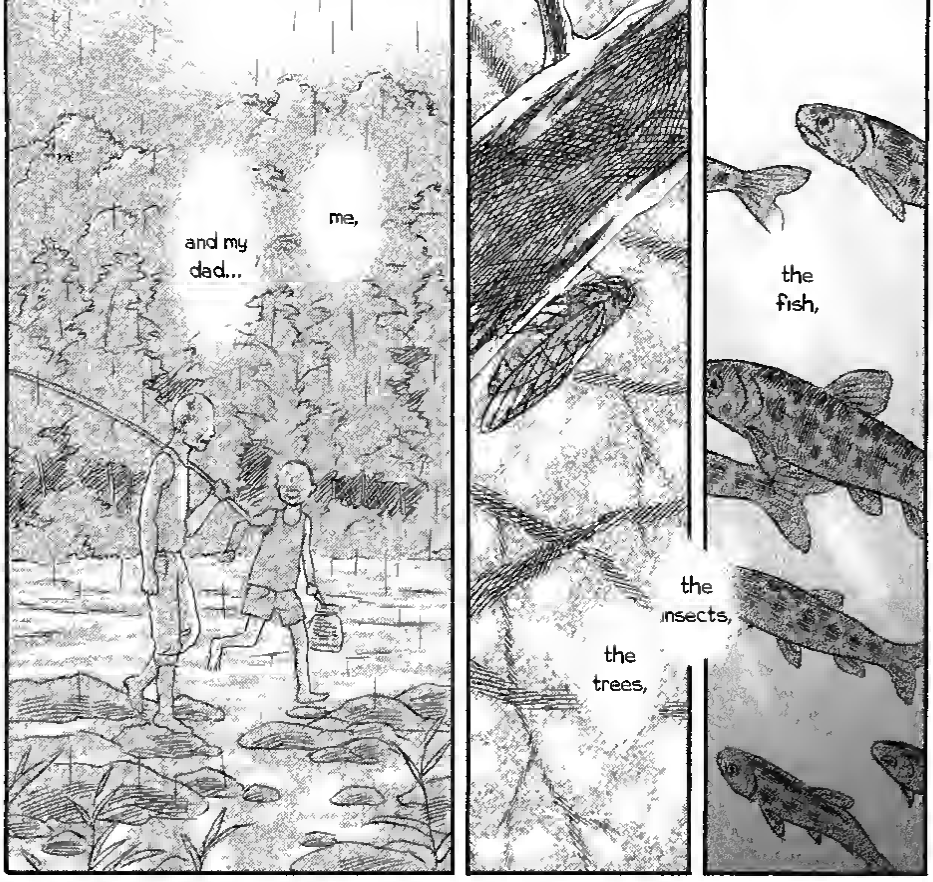

SUMIO!
HE'S NOT HERE.
I WONDER WHERE HE WENT OFF TO...
HE'S PROB-ABLY
OVER THERE...

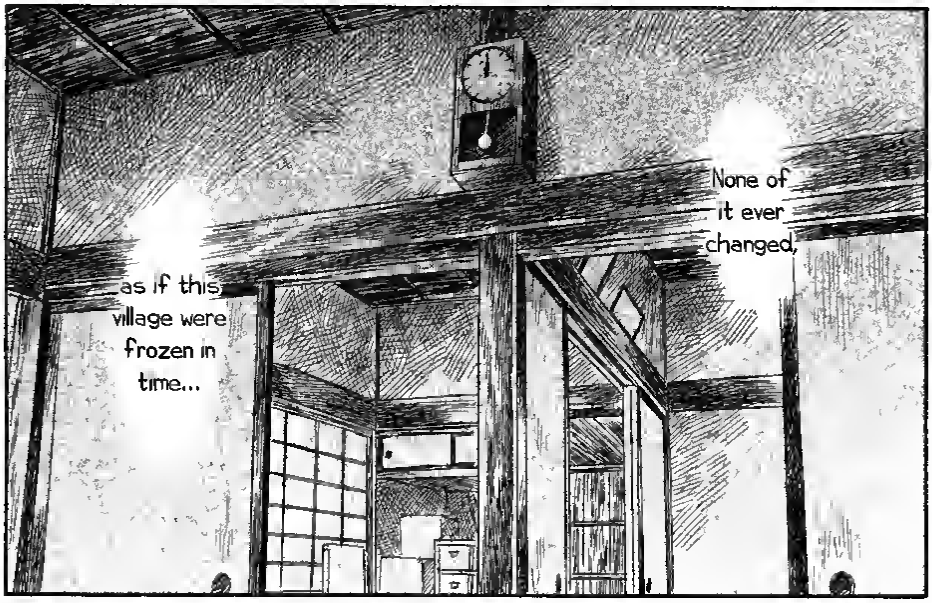


SUMIO!!
CHINAMI!
DAD!
YOU'RE ALRIGHT!
UH, YEAH, KIND OF.

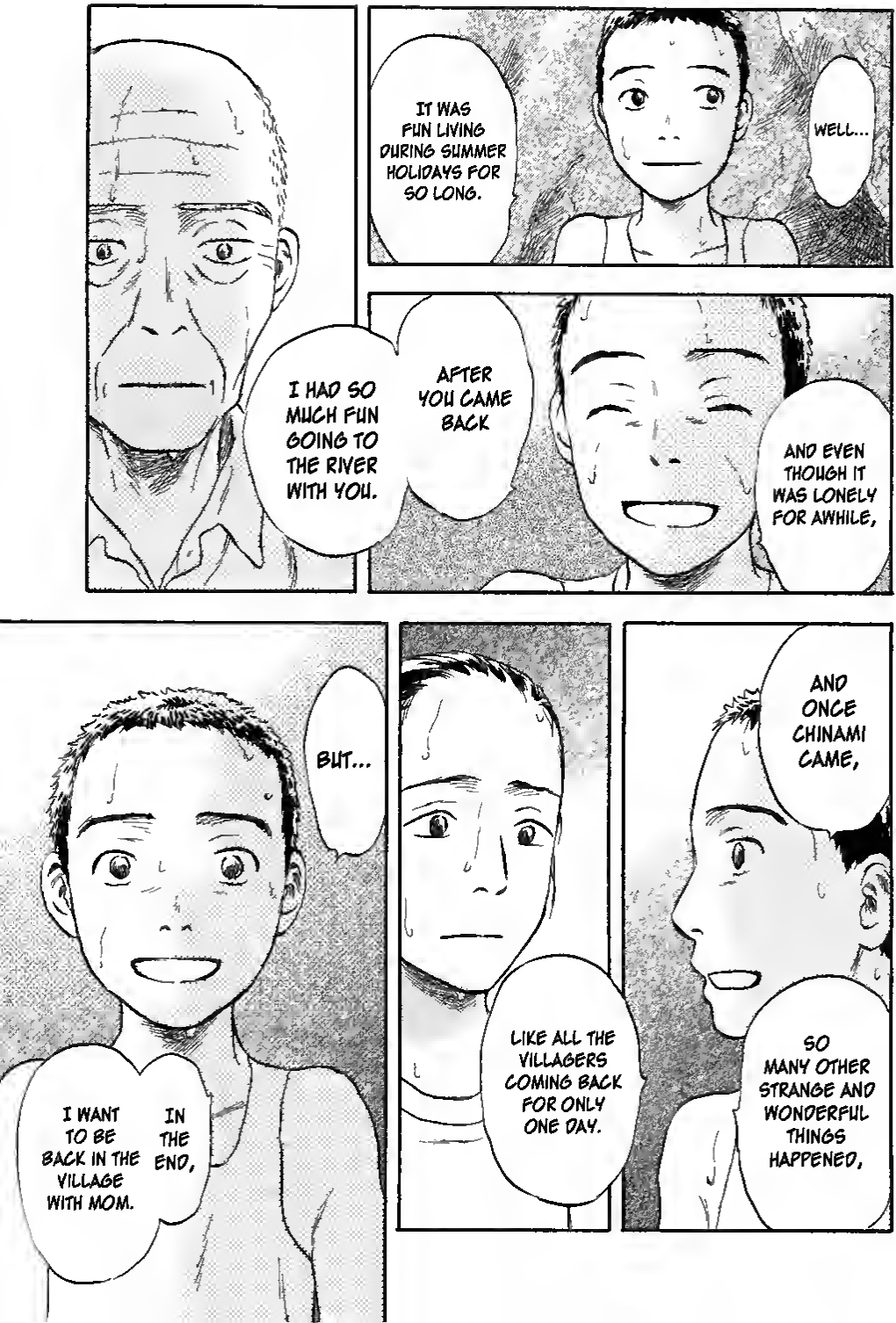
I... I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU EVER AGAIN.
US TOO...
SORRY, SUMIO...
BUT AT LAST,
WE'RE FINALLY HERE...
BUT...
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT ALL THIS RAIN?
AT THIS RATE,
THE WATER'S GOING TO RISE UP HERE TOO...

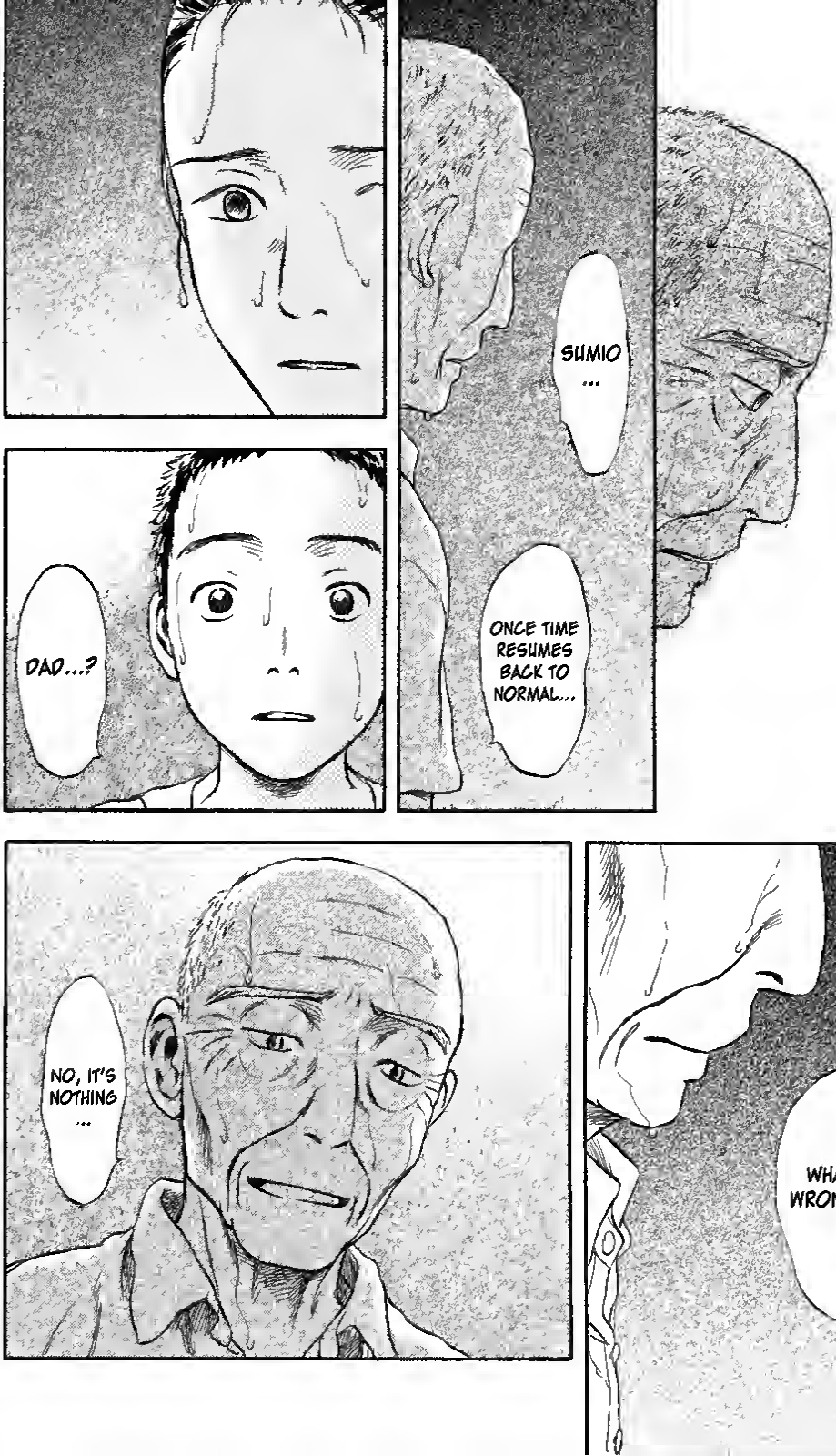
I THINK
THAT THIS MIGHT BE IT FOR THIS VILLAGE.
YEAH...
AFTER YOU AND THE VILLAGE STARTED EVAPORATING AWAY,
IT JUST STARTED RAINING UNTIL IT BECAME LIKE THIS.
The rivers,
the moun tains,
EVEN WHEN IT HAD DOWNPOURS FOR SEVERAL DAYS,
THE WATER LEVEL NEVER ROSE, AND THE RIVERS WERE NEVER MUDDY.
FOR THE LONGEST TIME,
THIS VILLAGE
STAYED EXACTLY THE WAY IT WAS.


me,
and my dad...
the fish,
the insects,
the trees,

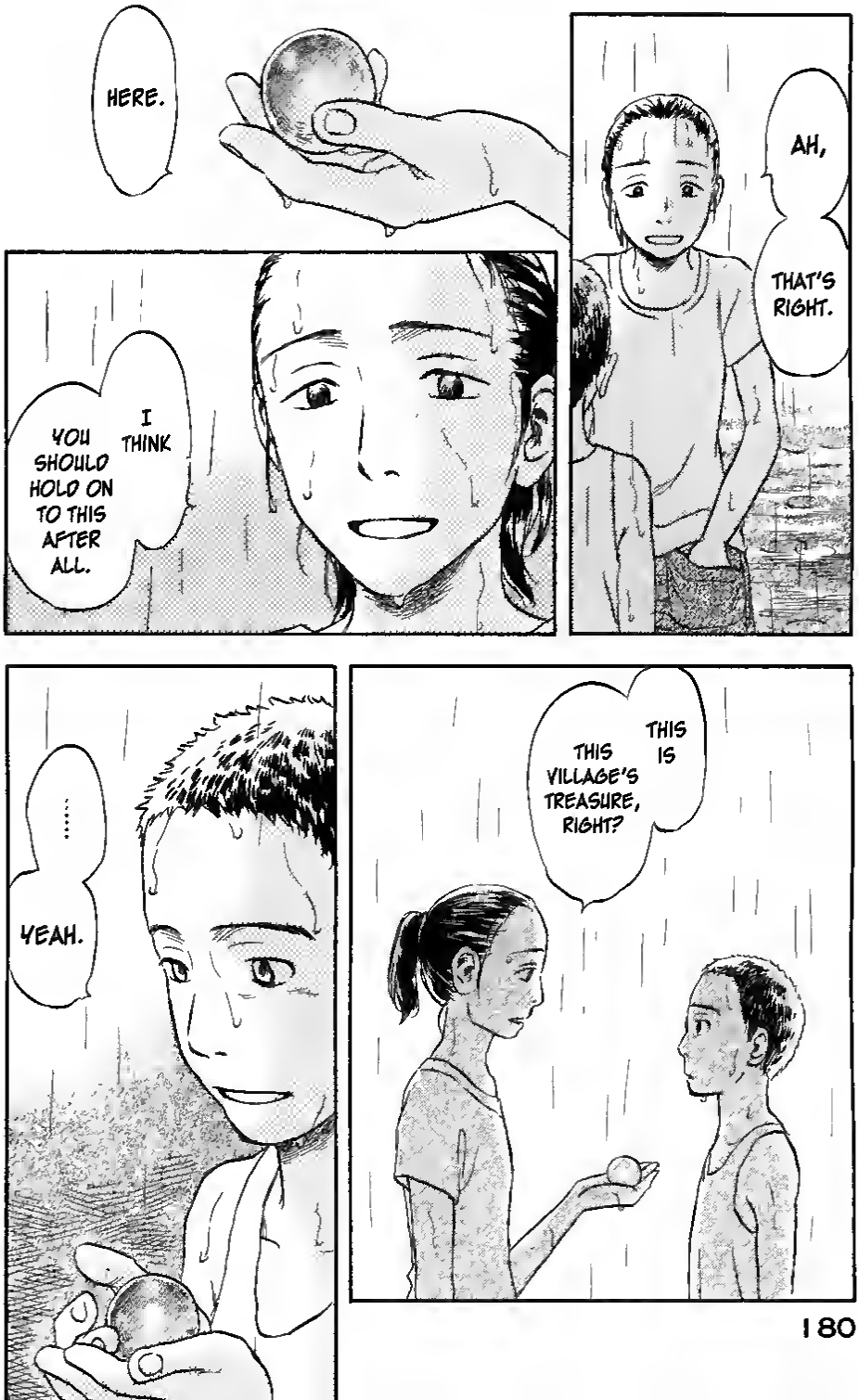

None of it ever changed,
as if this village were frozen in time...

I MEAN, IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR THE WATER TO RISE WHEN IT RAINS HEAVILY.
I'M SURE THE WATER'S RISING SO MUCH TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE LOST TIME.
BUT I THINK
THE FLOW OF TIME HAS FINALLY STARTED TO MOVE AGAIN.
ARE YOU...
FINE WITH THAT, SUMIO...?
BUT ONCE THIS FLOOD IS OVER,
I'M SURE THIS VILLAGE WILL GO BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE.


I HAD SO MUCH FUN GOING TO THE RIVER WITH YOU.
AFTER YOU CAME BACK
IT WAS FUN LIVING DURING SUMMER HOLIDAYS FOR SO LONG.
WELL...
AND EVEN THOUGH IT WAS LONELY FOR AWHILE,
AND ONCE CHINAMI CAME,
SO MANY OTHER STRANGE AND WONDERFUL THINGS HAPPENED,
LIKE ALL THE VILLAGERS COMING BACK FOR ONLY ONE DAY.
BUT...
IN THE END,
I WANT TO BE BACK IN THE VILLAGE WITH MOM.


SUMIO
...
ONCE TIME RESUMES BACK TO NORMAL...
DAD...?
NO, IT'S NOTHING
...
WHAT'S WRONG...?

I'M SURE
EVERYONE WILL RETURN BACK TO THE VILLAGE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
YEAH!
THAT'S WHY
EVEN IF WE STAND HERE, AND LET THE WATER ENGULF US,
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF...
AND THEN
WE'LL ALL BE ABLE TO LIVE TOGETHER LIKE BEFORE.


HERE.
AH,
THAT'S RIGHT.
I THINK YOU SHOULD HOLD ON TO THIS AFTER ALL.
THIS IS THIS VILLAGE'S TREASURE, RIGHT?
.....
YEAH.

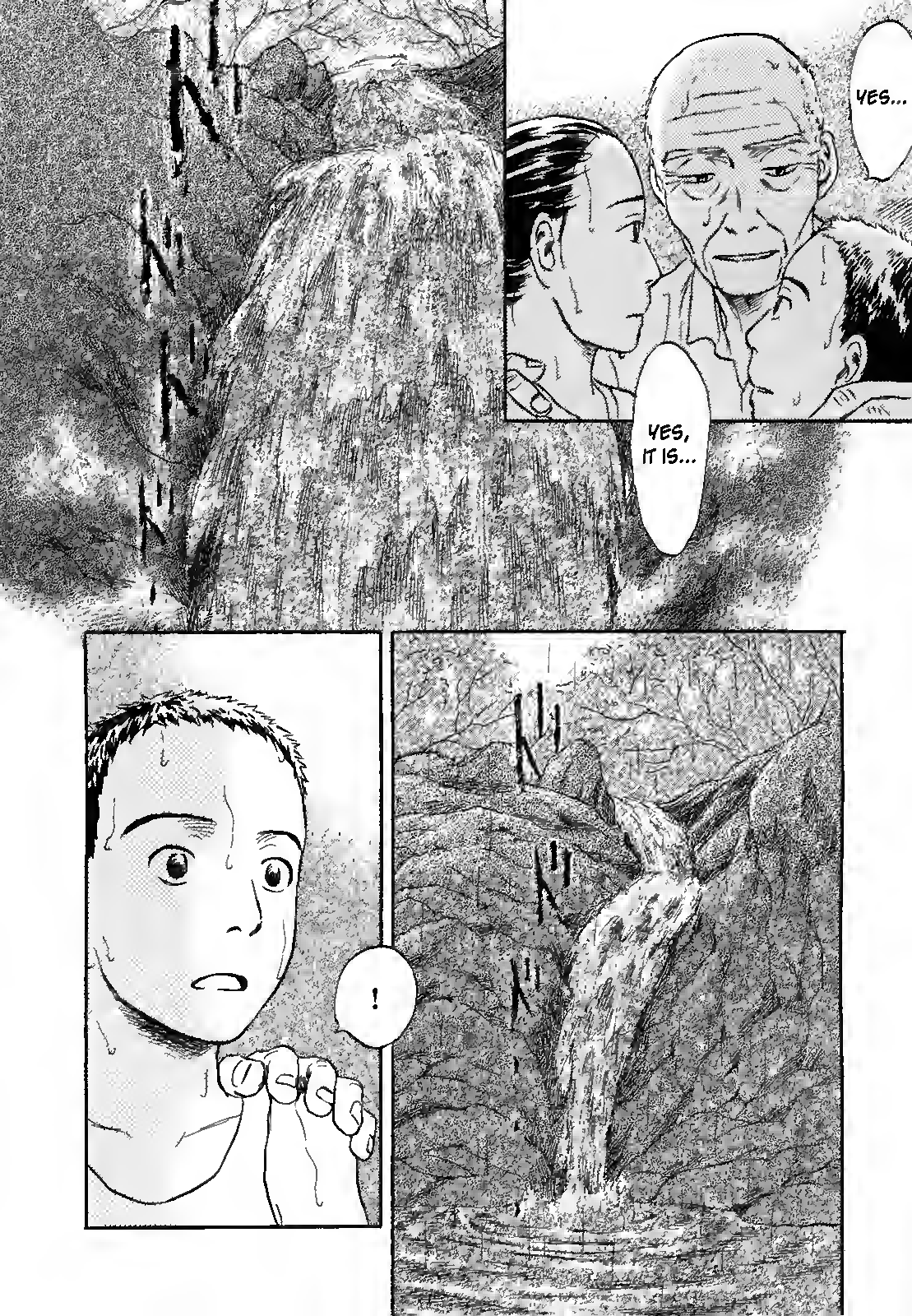
MOM TOLD ME
THAT LONG AGO,
THIS ORB HELPED PROTECT THE VILLAGE FROM A FLOOD.
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'LL SAVE OUR VILLAGE ONCE MORE.
THEN MAYBE
I SEE...

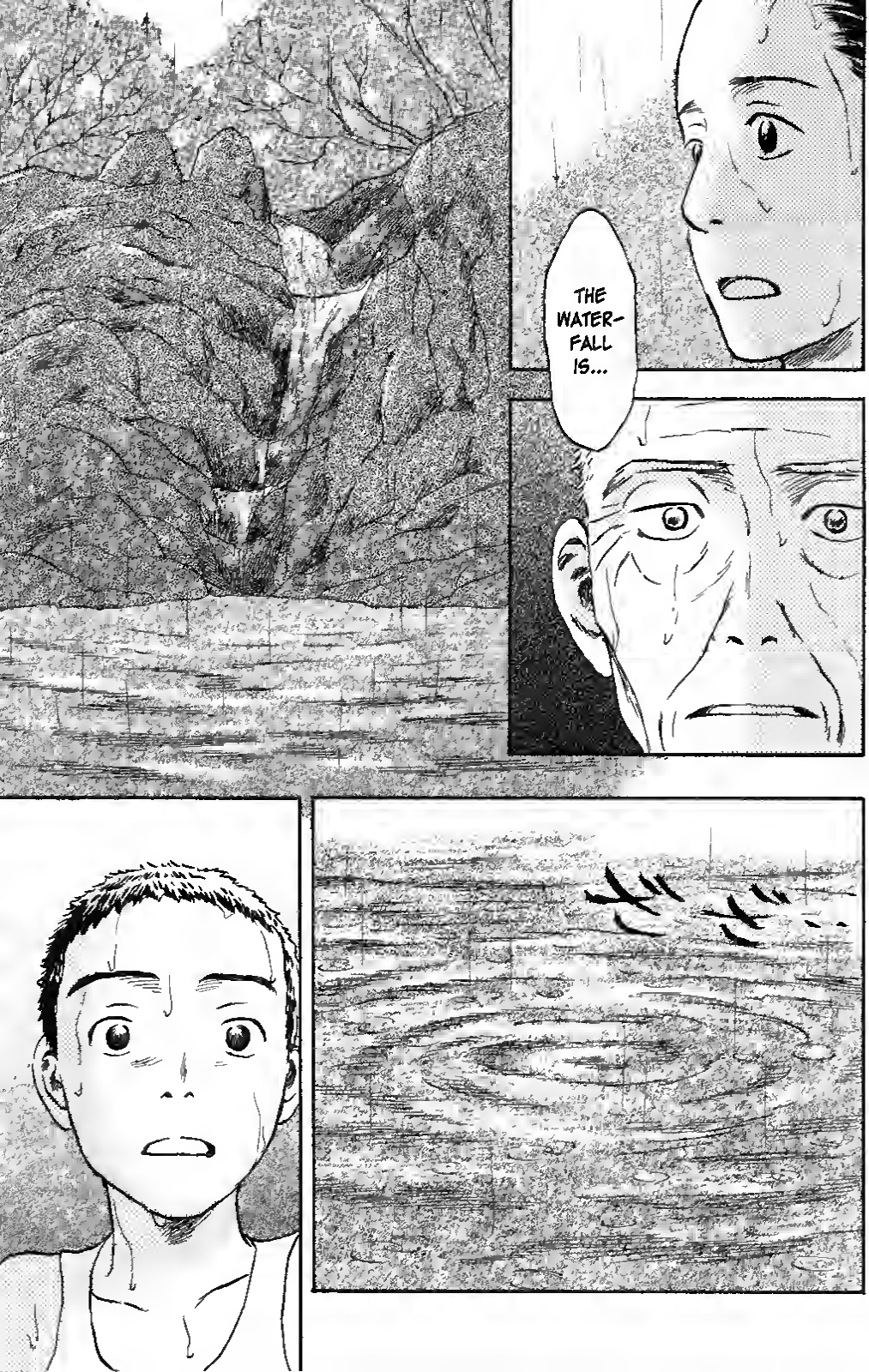
RE-MEMBER, CHINAMI?
I PRAYED TO THE ORB FOR MOM TO COME BACK AND MY WISH CAME TRUE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
LET'S GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY.
O' DRAGON GOD, DEAR DRAGON GOD.
I WASN'T ABLE TO FIND YOU IN THE END,
BUT I'M SURE YOU'RE HERE, AREN'T YOU?
PLEASE DRAGON GOD.
PLEASE,
SAVE OUR VILLAGE ONCE MORE.

KI
KI
KI
KOO-
HM...
NOTHING'S CHANGING ...
PERHAPS
THE DRAGON GOD DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER LEFT IN HIM...
THIS VILLAGE ALREADY EVAPORATED ONCE BEFORE.
AND NOW,
BOTH THE RIVER AND WATERFALL IS FLOODED BY MUDDY WATER...

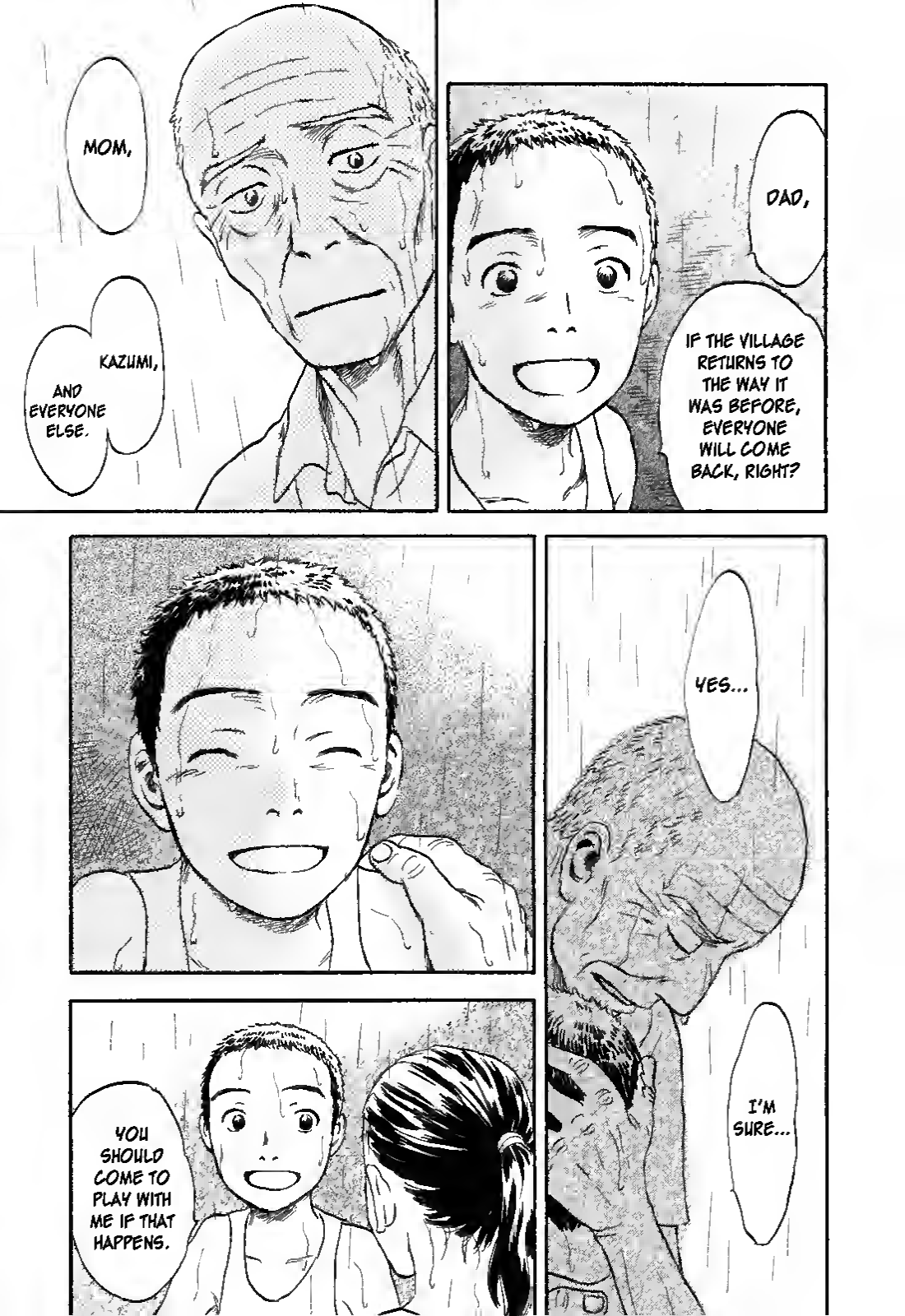
I THINK
IT'S TIME FOR US TO RETURN THAT ORB BACK TO THE DRAGON GOD.
.....
I GUESS ...
BUT NOW,
THERE'S NO WATER-FALL,
NOR RIVER FOR YOU TO STAY IN ANYMORE...
DEAR DRAGON GOD,
WE THANK YOU, FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS, FOR WATCHING OVER THIS VILLAGE FOR SO LONG.

PLEASE RETURN US TO WHEREVER WE SHOULD BE...
AND,
IF IT'S POSSIBLE...
IT'S ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO LEAVE NOW.
PLEASE RETURN TO WHEREVER YOU SHOULD BE.
WHERE WE SHOULD BE...? YOU MEAN OUR ORIGINAL VILLAGE?


YES...
YES, IT IS...
!

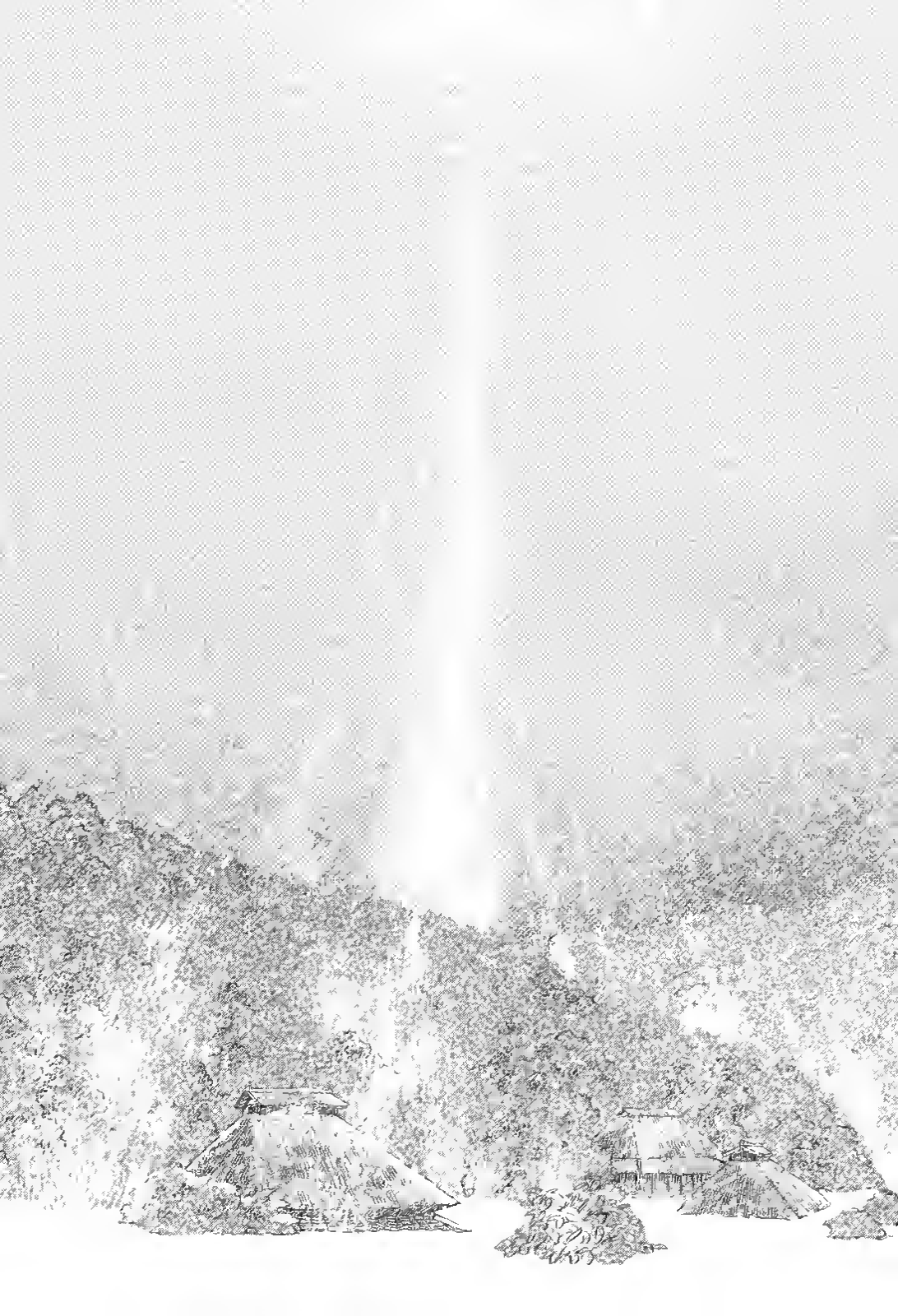

THE WATER-FALL IS...

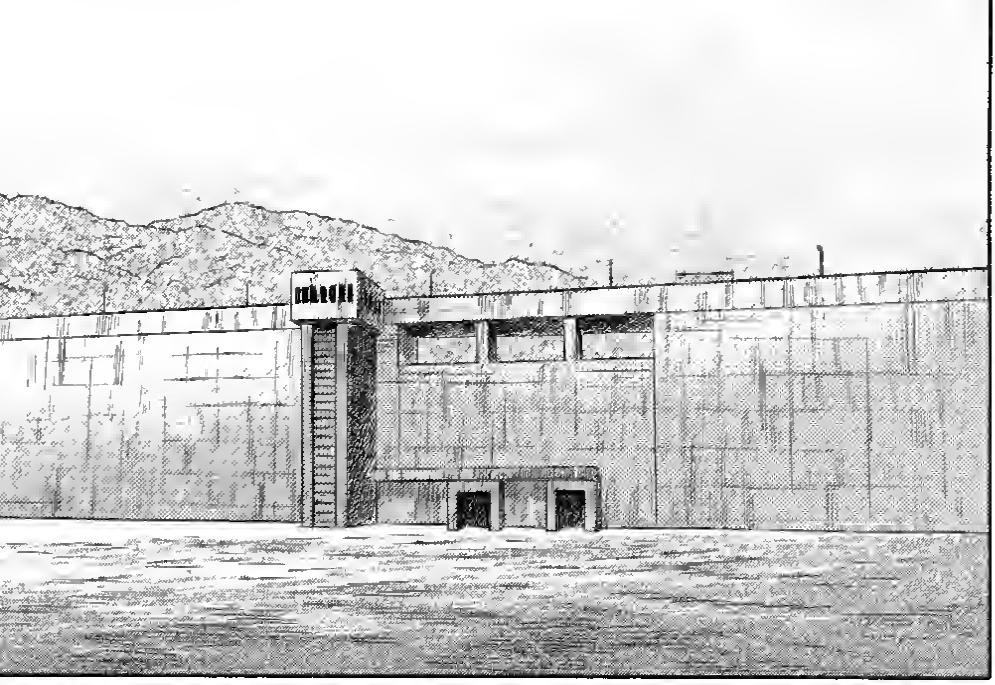
IT MUST BE THE DRAGON GOD!
THE DRAGON GOD IS COMING OUT!
HE'S COMING TO GRANT OUR WISHES!


MOM,
KAZUMI,
AND EVERYONE ELSE.
DAD,
IF THE VILLAGE RETURNS TO THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE, EVERYONE WILL COME BACK, RIGHT?
YES...
I'M SURE...
YOU SHOULD COME TO PLAY WITH ME IF THAT HAPPENS.

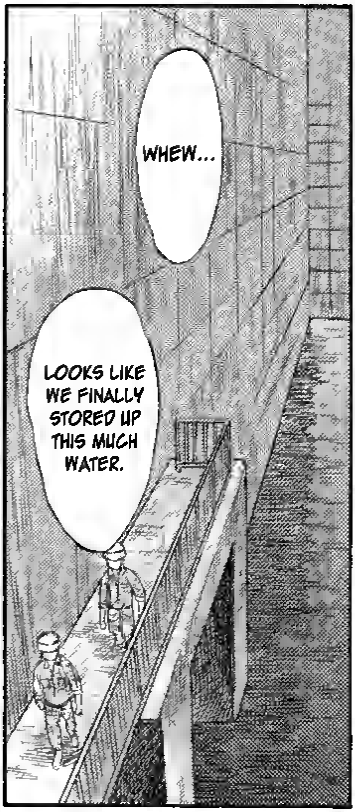
I'LL COME FOR SURE,
SUMIO.
THERE'S A LOT OF TASTY THINGS TO EAT AT THE VILLAGE IN THE FALL.
AND IN THE WINTER, WE CAN MAKE KAMAKURA SNOW HUTS.
SOUNDS FUN...
I'M REALLY, REALLY GLAD
THAT I CAME HERE AND MET YOU.
BEFORE COMING HERE,
I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THIS VILLAGE, NOR ABOUT YOU.

I'M SO GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU.
ME TOO,
CHINAMI.



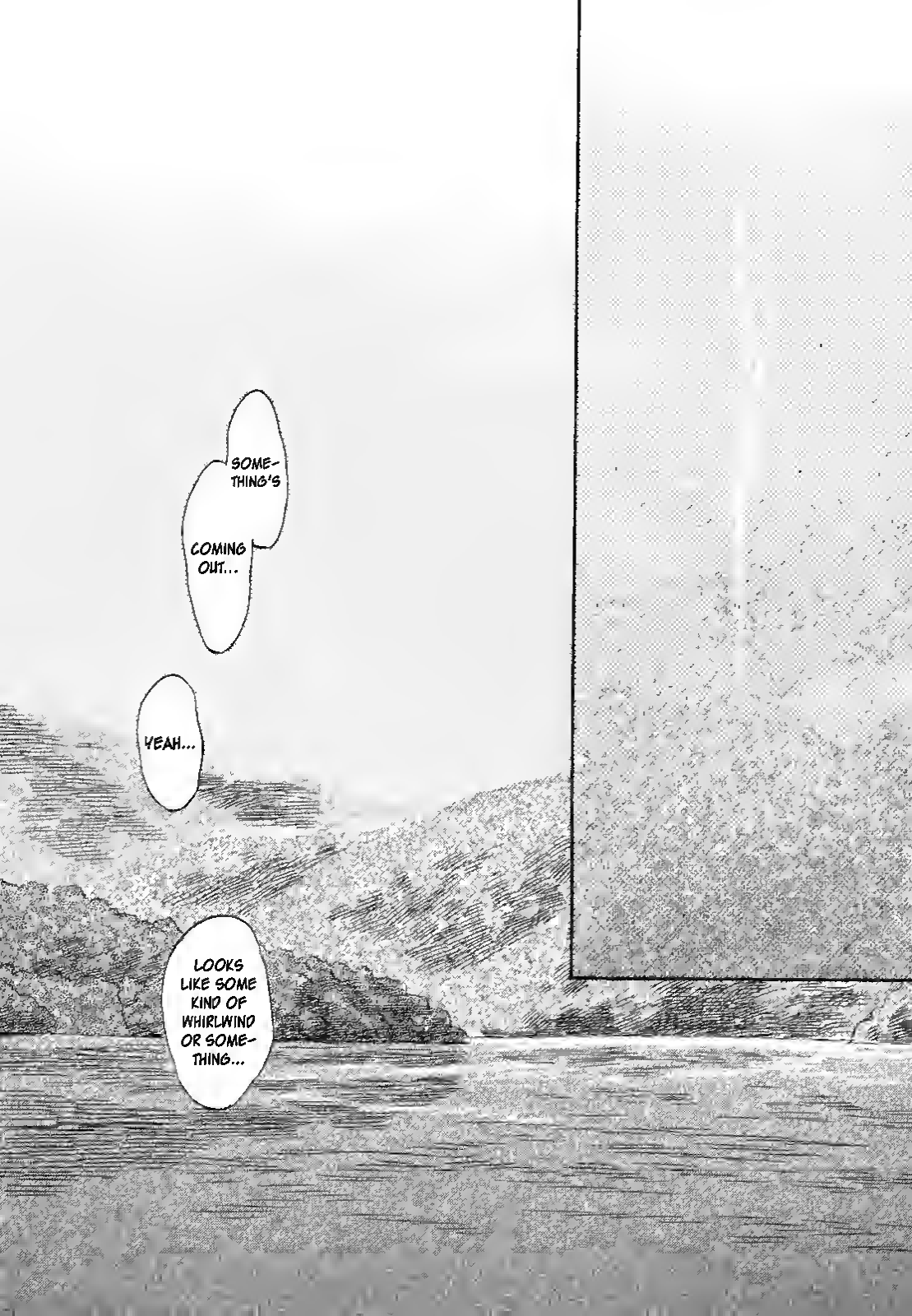


TELL ME ABOUT IT.
YEAH, THIS SHOULD SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS AND COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE WATER SHORTAGE, ALRIGHT.
WISH THEY'D STOP BLAMING US FOR THE ABNORMAL WEATHER.

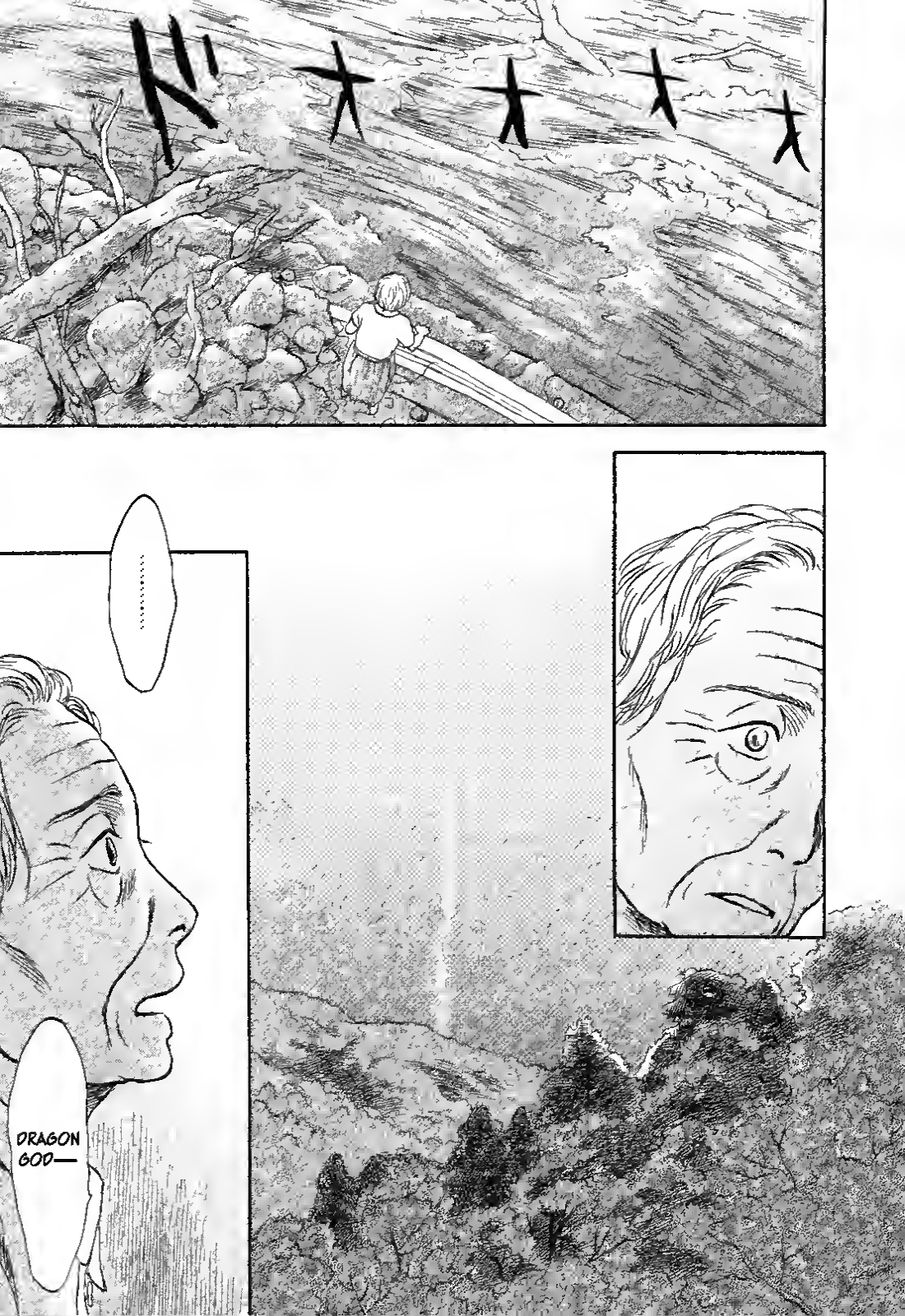

WHEW...
LOOKS LIKE WE FINALLY STORED UP THIS MUCH WATER.

YEAH...
SURE WAS A LOOOOONG SUMMER...
よ！

HUH,
WHAT'S THAT?
SMOKE?


SOME-
THING'S
COMING
OUT...
YEAH...
LOOKS
LIKE SOME
KIND OF
WHIRLWIND
OR SOME-
THING...

Chapter 11
End

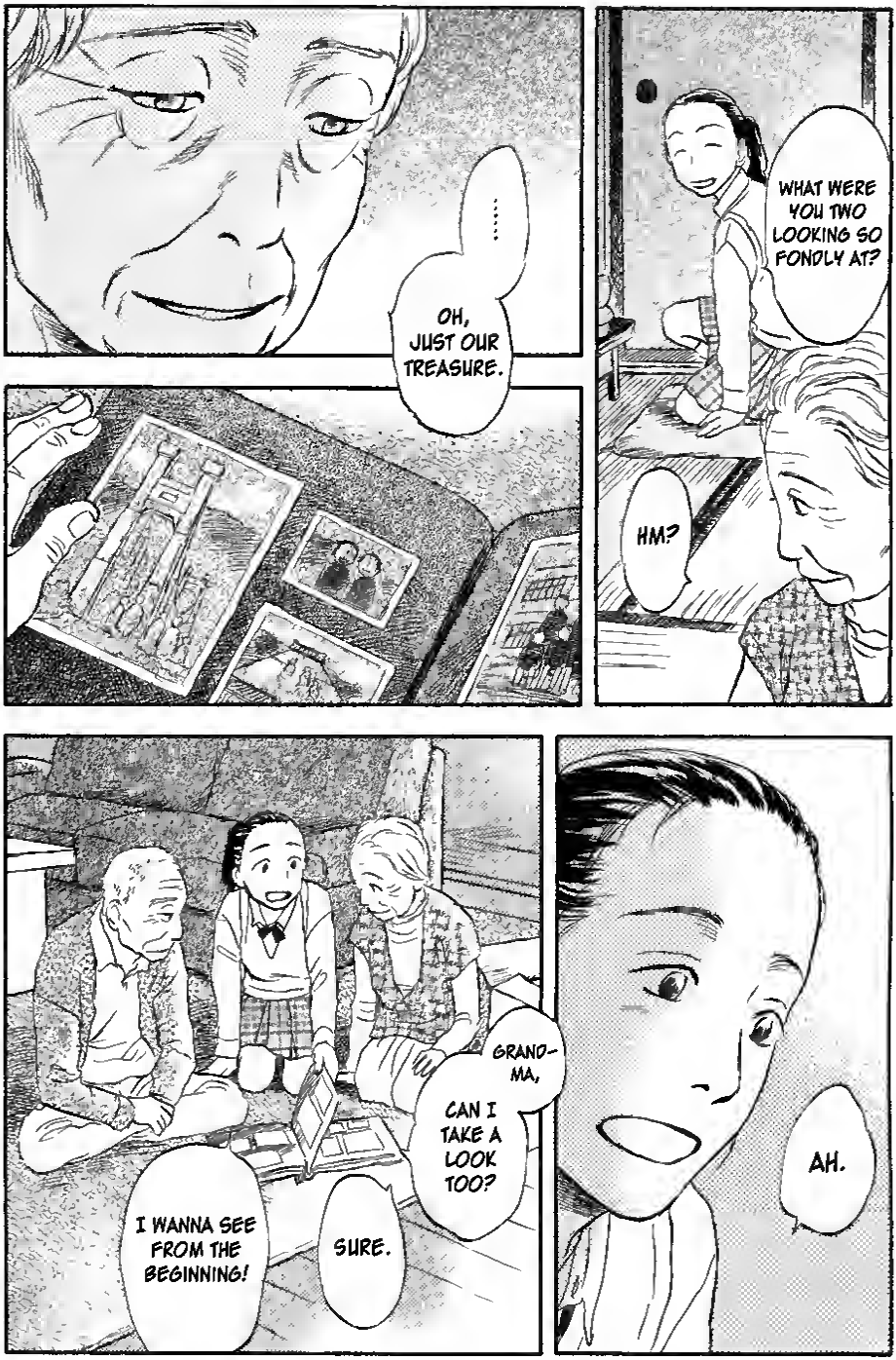

ドドドドドド
.....
DRAGON GOD—

CHINAMI!
DAD!
!!
Final Chapter
Horizon Over The Water

DAD!!
CHINAMI!!

I'M HOME!

AH,
CHINAMI.
WEL-
COME
HOME.
I'M
HOME,
SUMIO.
I SAID
I'M HOME,
DIDN'T I?
DON'T
JUST
BARGE
INSIDE.


.....
OH, JUST OUR TREASURE.
WHAT WERE YOU TWO LOOKING SO FONDLY AT?
HM?
AH.
GRANDMA, CAN I TAKE A LOOK TOO?
SURE.
I WANNA SEE FROM THE BEGINNING!

WOW!
YOU LOOK SO YOUNG, GRANDMA!
WOW, YOU USED TO LOOK PRETTY HOT, GRANDPA.
HOT?
HA HA
SHE MEANS HANDSOME, DEAR.
SO WAS HE POPULAR WITH OTHER GIRLS?
HAHA. NO, NOT QUITE. SINCE HE WAS SO RESERVED...
AH,
IT'S SUMIO.
HE'S SO TINY.
THIS IS THE LOCAL SHRINE.
THAT'S RIGHT, THIS WAS TAKEN ON OUR WAY BACK HOME FROM THE SHRINE.
WHO'S THIS?
THAT'S MY GRANDMOTHER.
SO THEN... THAT WOULD MAKE HER MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMA...

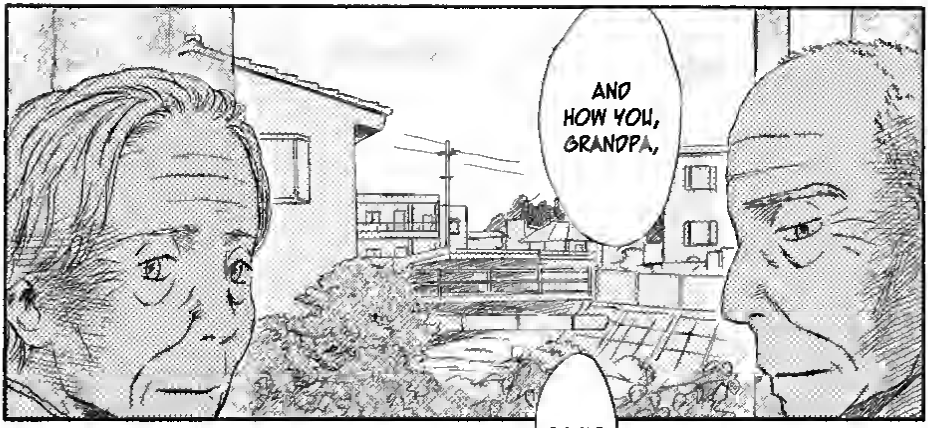
I FEEL NOS-TALGIC,
EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN TO IT.

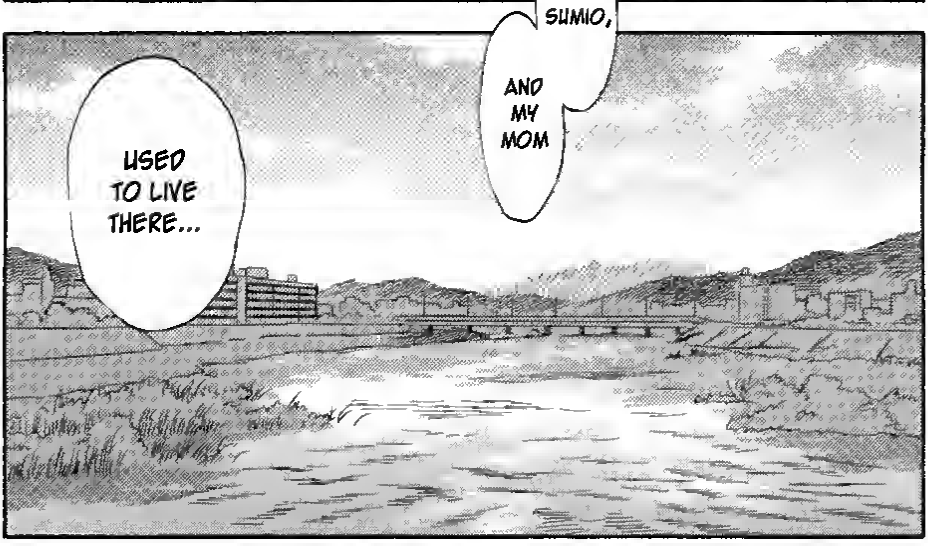
HOW NOSTALGIC.
AH, THIS IS THE WATERFALL.
HA, HOW STRANGE.

I WANT TO KNOW
WHAT KIND OF PLACE IT WAS REALLY LIKE.

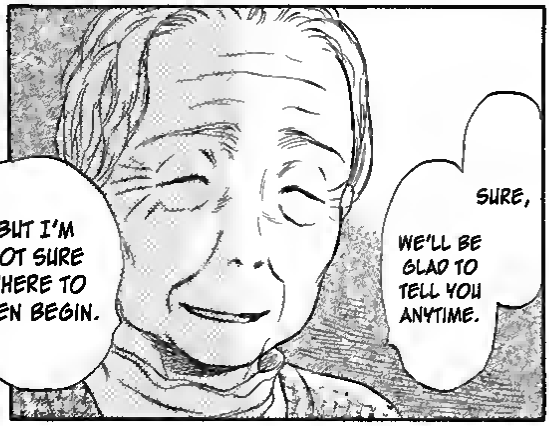
HEY...

A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE VILLAGE?
CAN YOU TELL ME

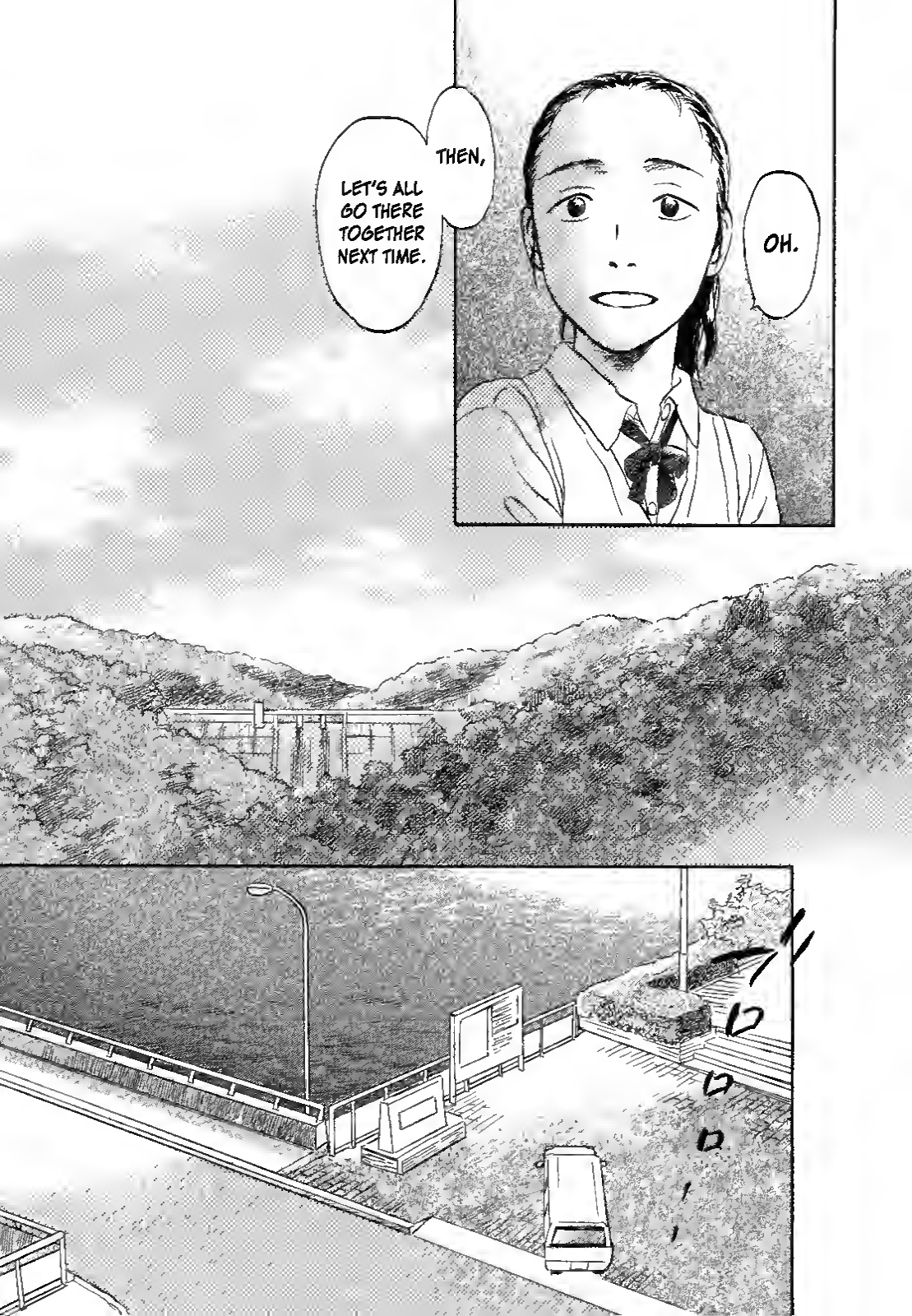

AND HOW YOU, GRANDPA,


SUMIO, AND MY MOM
USED TO LIVE THERE...

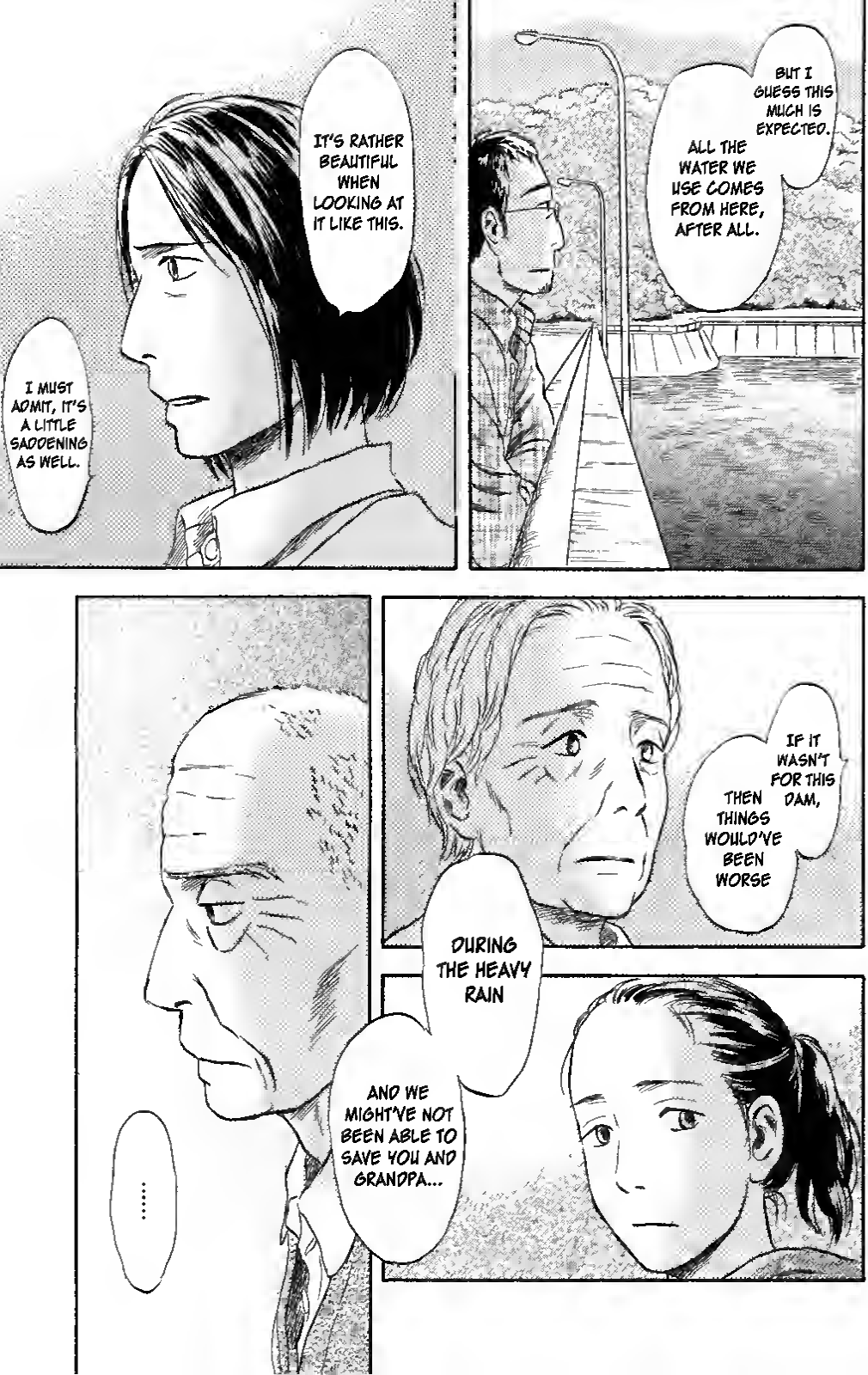
HMM, THEN...
BUT I'M NOT SURE WHERE TO EVEN BEGIN.


SURE, WE'LL BE GLAD TO TELL YOU ANYTIME.

TELL ME HOW YOU AND GRANDPA MET FOR THE FIRST TIME.
OH?
WHAT, YOU'RE GOING TO START WITH THAT STORY FIRST?
WELL, WE KNEW EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE CHILDREN...
BUT, I STILL REMEMBER WHEN WE ACTUALLY SPOKE TO EACH OTHER FOR THE FIRST TIME.
I-IT'S FINE, YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL HER ABOUT THAT STUFF.
REALLY? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
IT WAS WHEN I WENT TO GO SEE THE WATERFALL...
AH, WHERE'RE YOU GOING, GRANDPA?
THE TOILET.
OH, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SO EMBARRASSED ABOUT.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT. CHINAMI,
IT SEEMS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THAT ROAD IS FINISHED.

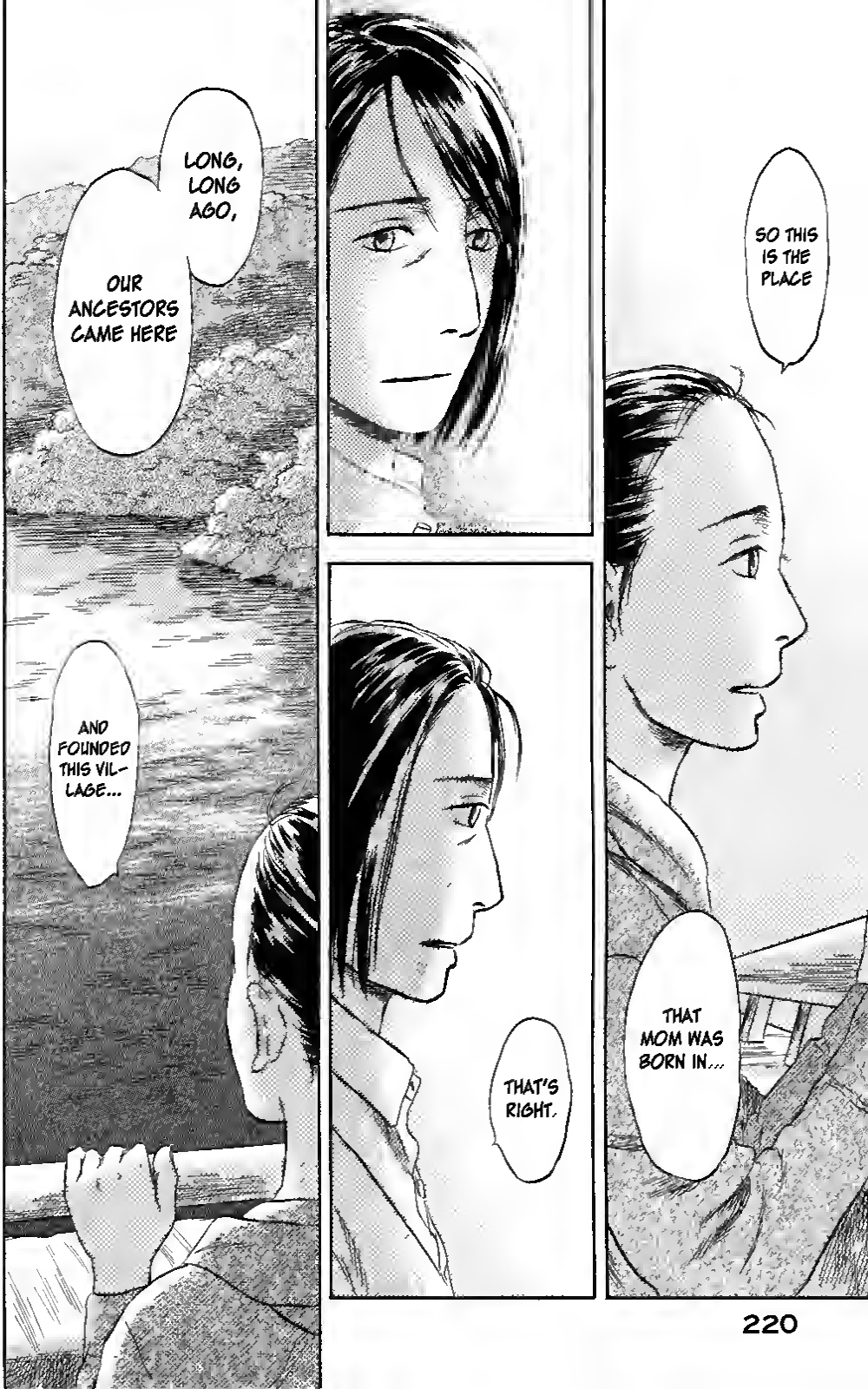

THEN,
LET'S ALL GO THERE TOGETHER NEXT TIME.
OH.

WOW...
WHAT A HUGE RESERVOIR.


IT'S RATHER BEAUTIFUL WHEN LOOKING AT IT LIKE THIS.
I MUST ADMIT, IT'S A LITTLE SADDENING AS WELL.
BUT I GUESS THIS MUCH IS EXPECTED.
ALL THE WATER WE USE COMES FROM HERE, AFTER ALL.
IF IT WASN'T FOR THIS DAM,
THEN THINGS WOULD'VE BEEN WORSE
DURING THE HEAVY RAIN
AND WE MIGHT'VE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SAVE YOU AND GRANDPA...
.....

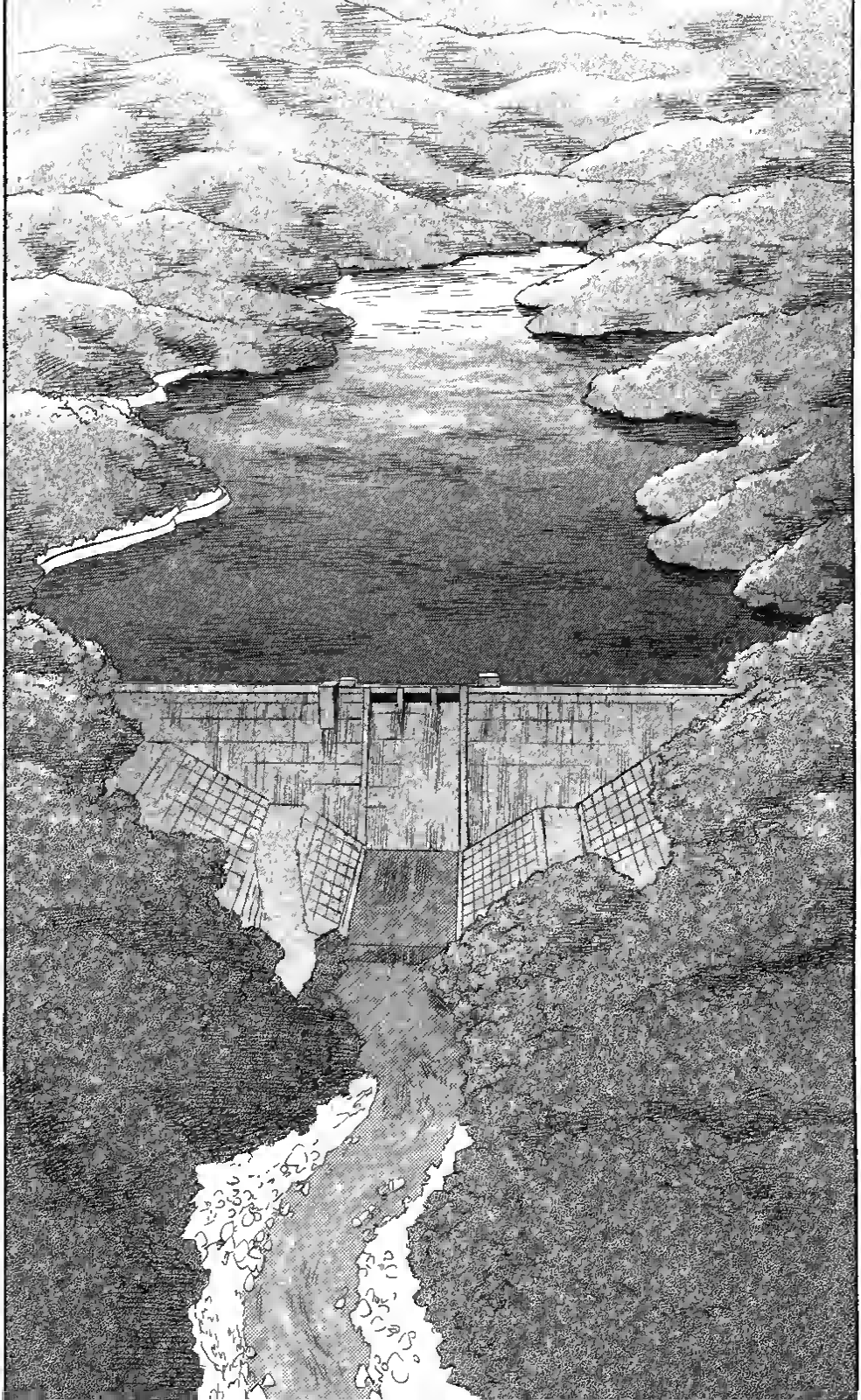
HEY MOM,
WHERE EXACTLY WAS THE VILLAGE?
SO IN A WAY,
I GUESS I SHOULD BE THANKFUL.
IT SHOULD BE...
SOMEWHERE AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THIS RESER-VOIR...

HOW STRANGE ...
WE'RE SO CLOSE,
YET WE CAN NEVER RETURN TO IT.
ALL THIS WATER...
BECAUSE IT'S BENEATH

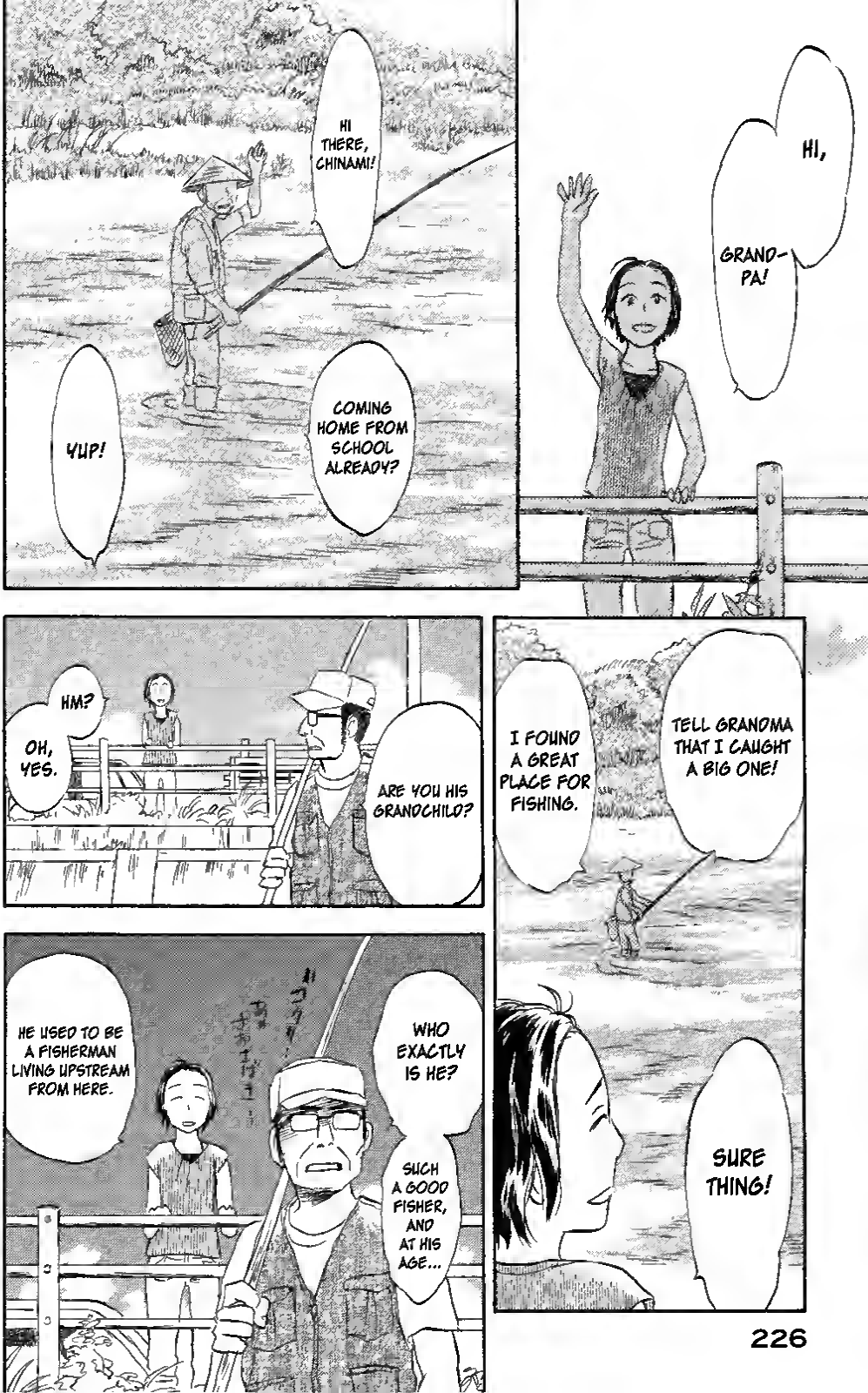

SO THIS IS THE PLACE
THAT MOM WAS BORN IN...
THAT'S RIGHT.
LONG, LONG AGO,
OUR ANCESTORS CAME HERE
AND FOUNDED THIS VIL-LAGE...

AND EVEN-TUALLY CAME ALONG,
GRANDMA AND GRANDPA,
WHO MET HERE
AND HAD SUMIO
AND MOM...
AND THEN,
I WAS BORN...

This is...
where I'm from...

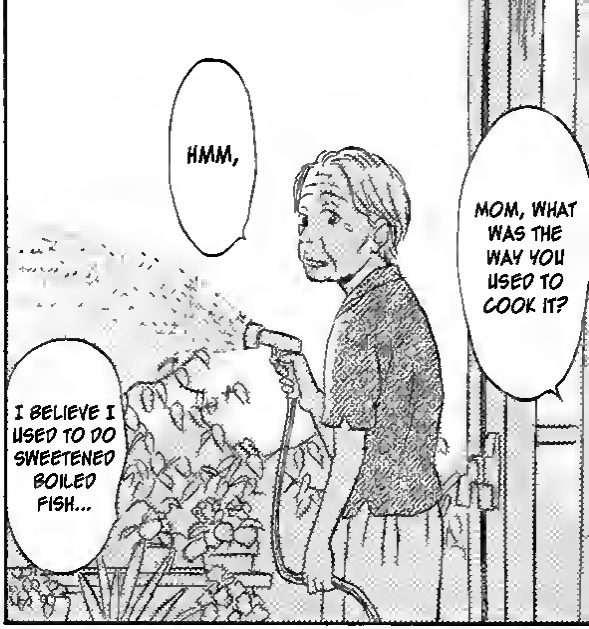


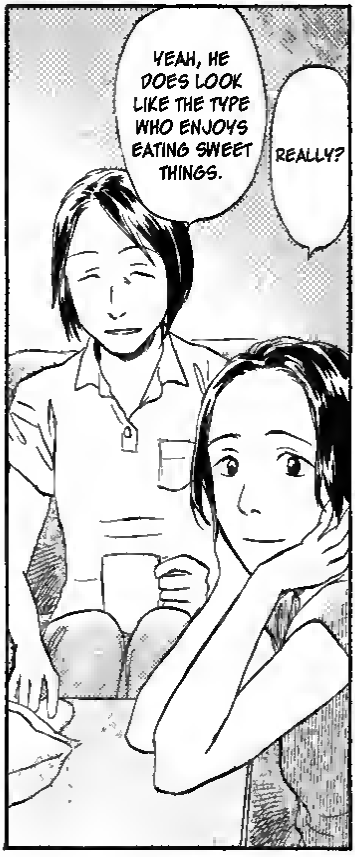
AH.
HM?

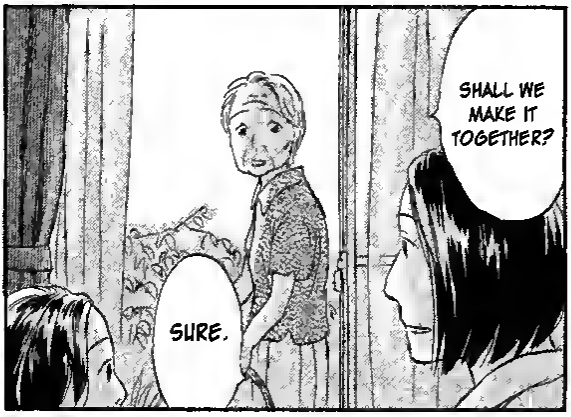

HI THERE, CHINAMI!
COMING HOME FROM SCHOOL ALREADY?
YUP!
HI, GRANDPA!
HM? OH, YES.
ARE YOU HIS GRANDCHILD?
I FOUND A GREAT PLACE FOR FISHING.
TELL GRANDMA THAT I CAUGHT A BIG ONE!
SURE THING!
HE USED TO BE A FISHERMAN LIVING UPSTREAM FROM HERE.
WHO EXACTLY IS HE?
SUCH A GOOD FISHER, AND AT HIS AGE...

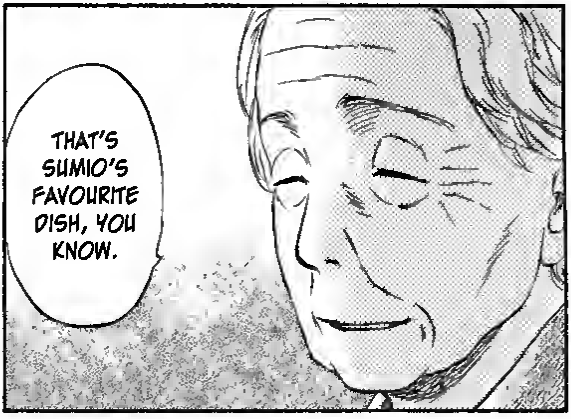
OH, I SEE.
NO WONDER THEN...
WHAT?
HE WENT ALL THE WAY OUT THERE TO FISH?
HE REALLY LIKES IT THERE.
HE SAID HE CAUGHT A BIG ONE.
WELL, THAT'S GOOD.
BUT HOW SHOULD WE COOK IT?
TEMPURA STYLE?
NO, I'M SICK OF TEMPURA.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
HOW DO YOU COOK IT AGAIN?


HMM,
MOM, WHAT WAS THE WAY YOU USED TO COOK IT?
I BELIEVE I USED TO DO SWEETENED BOILED FISH...


YEAH, HE DOES LOOK LIKE THE TYPE WHO ENJOYS EATING SWEET THINGS.
REALLY?


SHALL WE MAKE IT TOGETHER?
SURE.


THAT'S SUMIO'S FAVOURITE DISH, YOU KNOW.

AH, SPEAKING OF SUMIO,
IS HE STILL OUT PLAYING...?
HE MUST STILL BE OUT AT THE RIVER...
IT'S FINE. DAD'S WITH HIM, AFTER ALL.
YEAH...

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
ドゥ
ドゥ
ドゥ
ドゥ
ドゥ

And it
resur faces
from time to time.
the sunken village
still lies within my grandma's heart.
...Even now,
And it'll never disappear from there.
and my grandpa.
it exists within my mom
I'm sure

of a place

Occupying the waters

Deep, deep within...

that doesn't exist anymore...

that one summer,

And,

ever since

it's been born inside my heart as well.

ゴポ

ピチョン
ピチョーン
AH.
WELCOME HOME, GRANDPA.
GOOD TIMING TOO, BECAUSE I JUST HEATED UP THE BATH WATER.
AH, THANKS.
WOW, YOU REALLY DID CATCH A BIG ONE.
OH, LET ME SEE.

Waters
Fin

Thank you very much.

For providing me with helpful information:
Kawase, Hiroko, and others at Kawarayu Onsen

For material collection
Afternoon Editors, Miyazaki Takashi

Book binding and desing Fake graphics

Drawing assistants: Yaoi, Youshi

Additional drawing and finding waterfalls: Osshi and M-ka

Special thanks to Lady Kawanishi

And to all my dear readers.

初出一覧

第7話「水合」――月刊アフタヌーン2010年7月号

第8話「深淵」――月刊アフタヌーン2010年8月号

第9話「湖底」――月刊アフタヌーン2010年9月号

第10話「伏流」――月刊アフタヌーン2010年10月号

第11話「氾濫」――月刊アフタヌーン2010年11月号

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